

HEAT WAVE

BRIAN SKOLOFF
CHRIS CARLSON
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A blazing heat wave expected to send the mercury soaring to nearly 120 degrees (49 Celsius) in Phoenix and Las Vegas over the weekend settled across the West on Friday, threatening to ground airliners and raising fears that pets will get burned on the scalding pavement.



A Salt lake City fireman pours a cold bottle of water over the head of fireman Cary Turner after battling a house fire Thursday in Salt lake City. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

The heat was so punishing that rangers took up positions at trailheads at Lake Mead in Nevada to persuade people not to hike. Zookeepers in Phoenix hosed down the elephants and fed tigers frozen fish snacks. And tourists at California's Death Valley took photos of the harsh landscape and a thermometer that read 121.

The mercury there was expected to reach nearly 130 degrees (54 Celsius) through the weekend — just short of the 134-degree (57-Celsius) reading from a century ago that stands as the highest temperature ever recorded on Earth. "You have to take a picture of something like this. Otherwise no one will believe you," said Laura McAlpine, visiting Death Valley from Scotland on Friday.

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Obama in South Africa; bears message to Mandela

U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama react as they are greeted during their arrival at Waterkloof Airbase in Pretoria, South Africa, Friday, June 28, 2013.

DECLAN WALSH
RICK LYMAN
MICHAEL D. SHEAR
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JOHANNESBURG - President Barack Obama arrived in South Africa on Friday evening, saying he was bearing a message of "profound gratitude" to Nelson Man-

dela, the stricken former leader, and that he would defer to Mandela's family on whether to visit him. After an eight-hour flight, Air Force One landed at Waterkloof Air Base, just a few miles from the Pretoria hospital where Mandela has been under intensive

care with a serious lung infection for nearly three weeks, as concerns about his health have intensified in recent days despite government assurances that Mandela's condition had stabilized. Obama's plane left from Dakar, Senegal, the first

(AP Photo/Themba Hadebe)
stop on his African trip, where Obama met with farmers and entrepreneurs seeking enhanced food security through new agricultural practices and technology.

Continued on page 3

Vatican monsignor arrested in 20M euro plot

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The plot involved an armed police escort, a wealthy shipping family and a plan to secretly transport \$26 million (20 million euros) from a Swiss bank account

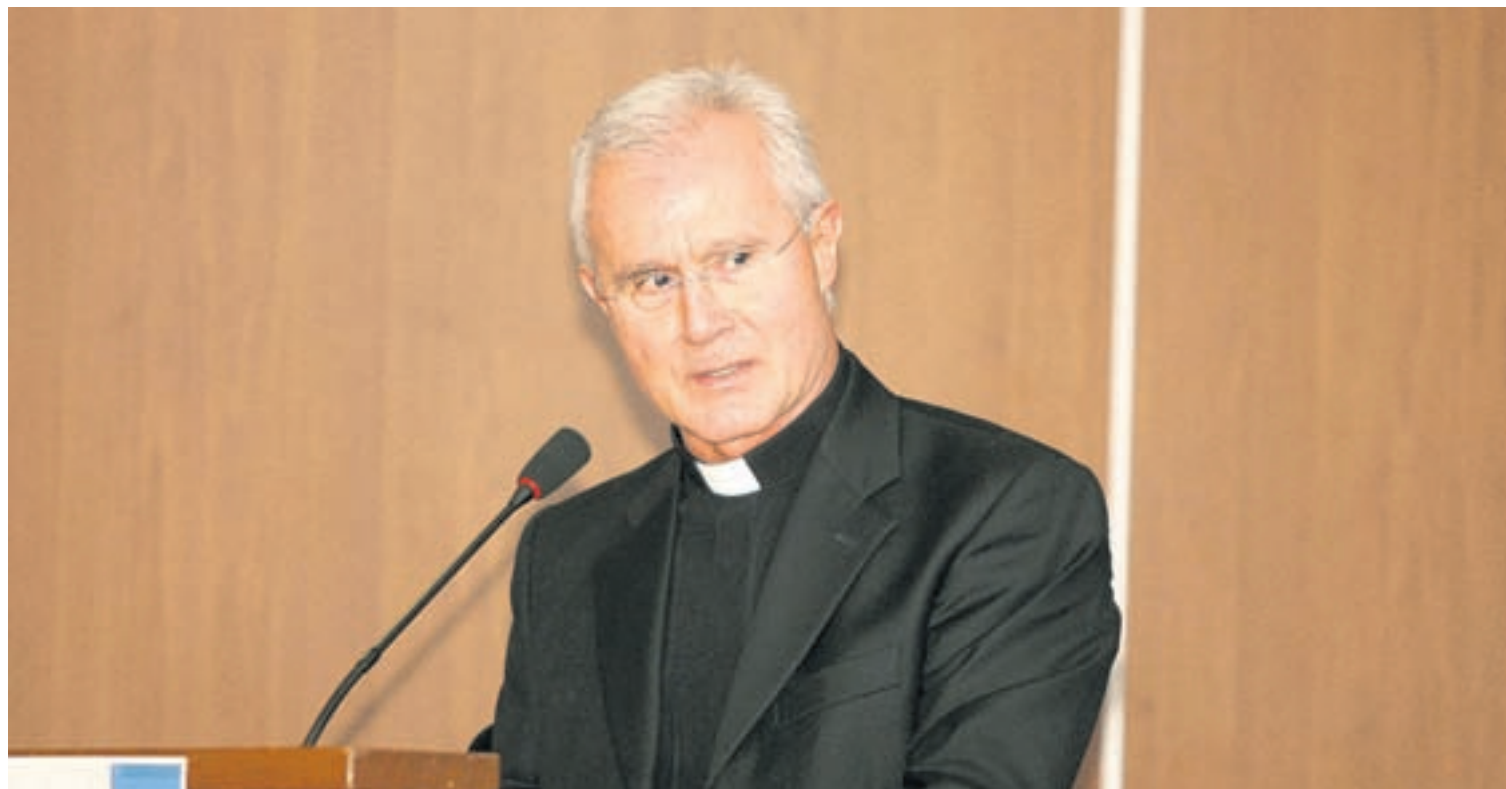
Peter didn't have a bank account."

With Francis' reform-minded hand now running the show, the Vatican said it was prepared to fully cooperate with Italian investigators, who described a remarkably detailed scheme

of a middleman: The 20 million euros belonged to the d'Amicos, who had given the money to Carenzio to invest but wanted it back. Scarano was tasked with persuading Carenzio to hand it over.

Rossi said the d'Amico

the airport customs area without being stopped. The money could have been transported relatively easily because euros are issued in high denominations. If the cash had been withdrawn in the largest denomination — 500 euro



An undated photo of Monsignor Nunzio Scarano in Salerno, Italy. The Vatican official already under investigation in a purported money-laundering plot involving the Vatican bank was arrested Friday, June 28, 2013.

into Italy aboard a private jet. At the heart of the story of greed: a silver-haired Vatican monsignor.

The latest corruption scandal to hit the Holy See unraveled in public on Friday as Monsignor Nunzio Scarano, a Vatican accountant, was arrested in the customs-dodging Swiss bank case. He is also under investigation in a separate case of alleged money-laundering involving his Vatican bank account.

The developments came two days after Pope Francis created a commission of inquiry into the Vatican bank to get to the bottom of the problems that have plagued it for decades and contributed to its reputation as an unregulated, offshore tax haven.

Francis has made it clear that he has no tolerance for corruption or for Vatican officials who use their jobs for personal ambition or gain. He has said he wants a "poor" church that ministers to those most in need. He has also noted, tongue in cheek, that "St.

allegedly spearheaded by Scarano to benefit some very wealthy friends. Prosecutor Nello Rossi identified them as the d'Amicos, one of Italy's most important shipping families from Scarano's hometown of Salerno in southern Italy.

Rossi declined to say if any of the d'Amicos were under investigation, but said developments were expected in the coming days. Three people were arrested on Friday: Scarano, a onetime banker who was recently suspended from his job in the Vatican's main finance office, Italian financier Giovanni Carenzio and Giovanni Zito, who until recently was a member of the Italian military police's agency for security and information.

According to wiretapped conversations, the three allegedly plotted to smuggle in some 20 million euros in cash that Carenzio held in a Swiss bank account without declaring it to authorities at the airport.

Scarano's lawyer described him as something

money was presumably being held in Switzerland to avoid paying Italian taxes. An email seeking comment from the family's Rome-based company, the d'Amico Societa di Navigazione SpA, wasn't immediately returned.

According to prosecutors, Zito, the Carabinieri agent, called in sick to his job one day in July 2012, rented a private plane and flew with Carenzio to Locarno, Switzerland, to pick up the money. The plan was for Carenzio to withdraw the cash from his bank account and hand it over to Zito to bring back to Italy. The arrangements were so detailed there was even to be an armed police escort waiting at the airport to bring the money to Scarano's home in Rome, Rossi said. "This operation was meticulously planned in all its details," the prosecutor said, noting that Zito was chosen to be the mule because his high-ranking position in the Italian police agency would have enabled him to pass through

notes — it would have weighed 97 pounds (44 kilos) and fit into a suitcase. But at a certain point in Locarno, the deal fell through. Carenzio, who had been increasingly balking at handing the money over, made excuses that the Swiss bank couldn't come up with the money, Rossi said.

He declined to identify the bank and it's not clear where the money is. But this isn't the only investigation looking into Carenzio's financial dealings: Rossi noted news reports in the Canary Islands that authorities there are investigating Carenzio for alleged fraud, misappropriation of funds and concealment of assets. He is alleged to have operated a Ponzi scheme, the reports say. After the aborted transport flight, Zito returned to Rome empty-handed. But he still demanded from Scarano his fee of 600,000 euros for the operation. Scarano cut him one check for 400,000 euros which he deposited. □

Brazil president meets youth representatives

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

President Dilma Rousseff pledged on Friday to open new channels of dialogue with Brazil's youth, the dominant demographic in nationwide protests that have rocked the country over the past two weeks. Rousseff and Education Minister Aloizio Mercadante met in the capital city of Brasilia with leaders from 25 youth organizations, including student and labor unions, as well as with gay rights advocates as part of the Brazilian leader's continuing talks with different interest groups. No concrete announcements resulted from the talks, which Rousseff's office cast as the start of a dialogue with the nation's youth. Though no follow-up meetings have yet been scheduled, the July 8 launch of a long-planned government website focusing on youth issues will help facilitate continued dialogue, Rousseff's office said.

The demonstrations took off earlier this month over a 10-cent hike in bus and subway fare in Sao Paulo and morphed into a mass, nationwide movement voicing public dissatisfaction with a range of issues such as government corruption, poor education and health care.

Scattered smaller protests continued on Friday, with a demonstration by taxi drivers near Rio de Janeiro's Santos Dumont domestic airport over proposed changes to the rules governing taxi licenses.

Riot police in Sao Paulo state used tear gas grenades to disperse a small group of demonstrators who had blocked a multi-lane highway, and another demonstration was under way in the northeastern city of Natal. Social networks, which were a main forum for organizing protest last week that brought hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets, were abuzz Friday with rumors of a general strike next Monday. □

(AP Photo/Francesco Pecoraro)

Varied alliances to press House on immigration bill

JULIA PRESTON

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WASHINGTON - Even as they were popping corks Thursday night after a strong bipartisan vote in the Senate to pass an immigration bill, supporters of the overhaul were laying plans for the far more difficult task of moving something similar through the Republican-controlled House.

Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio insisted Thursday that the House would not take up the Senate bill and would pass its own measure only if a majority of Republicans backed it, instead of relying more on Democratic votes. As a sign of the conservative direction of the debate in the House, its Judiciary Committee recently approved a bill to enforce immigration laws away from the nation's borders that was much tougher than anything from the Senate. The House has yet to produce a bill that includes a core piece of the Senate legislation: a path to citizenship for 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the country.

While supporters are hardly confident, they say House Republicans will soon discover a crucial difference this year from failed immigration efforts of the past. They say their coalition is broader and far more energized and committed than in 2007, when an immigration overhaul by President George W. Bush did not even reach a vote in the Senate.

Latinos, who showed their strength when they overwhelmingly supported President Barack Obama in November, are a leading force but are not the only one, supporters said. Business and technology industry groups, labor unions, agricultural growers, farmworkers, law enforcement associations, churches, educators, youth groups and other immigrant organizations are also in the mix.

The diversity gives supporters a variety of pressure points for approaching reluctant House Republicans, said Clarissa Martínez de Castro, an organizer for

NCLR, the national Latino organization also known as the National Council of La Raza. A lawmaker who does not have many Latino voters in a district might have vegetable farmers, or labor unions, or a university, or an evangelical Christian megachurch, she said.

Asked why he thought the overhaul had a fighting chance in the House, Ali Noorani, a veteran of many immigration wars, pointed to a big green mobile billboard that had circled Capitol Hill every day this week.

Its flashing message was

"Praying for immigrants. Praying for Congress." Groups of evangelical Christians prayed on the Capitol lawn, for the Senate to pass its bill. Noorani's group, the National Immigration Forum, has worked with Southern Baptists and other large evangelical

denominations to coordinate prayer campaigns and run pro-overhaul spots on Christian radio stations in states where lawmakers might be persuaded to change their views.

"In 2007, we weren't even on the radar," said the Rev. Samuel Rodríguez, the president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, a national evangelical group. Rodríguez said he had been on the road continuously, addressing primarily non-Hispanic Christian conferences to spread the message on the overhaul. Business groups are also pledging to stay in the fray. "What will shock a lot of people in the House is the level of interest and intensity of the business community compared to 2007," said Scott Corley, the executive director of Compete America, which represents tech companies that are pressing for an increase in visas for skilled immigrants. "High-skilled industry is going to be very vocal in a way they have never seen before." □



House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) speaks on immigration legislation, in Washington. Boehner insisted Thursday that the House would not take up the Senate bill and would pass its own measure only if a majority of Republicans backed it, instead of relying more on Democratic votes.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

Obama in South Africa; bears message to Mandela

Continued from Front

Speaking to reporters traveling with him aboard the flight, Obama said he had no further information on the health of Mandela, the 94-year-old icon of the successful anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. Obama said any possibility of a visit by himself, the first lady, Michelle Obama, and their two daughters would rest with the family of Mandela, who has been hospitalized since June 8.

"I don't need a photo-op, and the last thing I want to do is to be in any way obtrusive at a time when the family is concerned about Nelson Mandela's condition," Obama said, according to a transcript of his remarks released by the White House. "I've had the opportunity to meet with him, Michelle and the girls had an opportunity to

meet with him. Right now, our main concern is with his well-being, his comfort, and with the family's well-being and comfort."

Obama said the main message he intended to deliver

tude for his leadership all these years and that the thoughts and prayers of the American people are with him, and his family, and his country." As supporters of the governing African Na-

Mandela was being treated, concerned relatives, clergy members and senior government have been streaming in to see Mandela, South Africa's former president. Although the government noted a deterioration in Mandela's condition Wednesday night, President Jacob Zuma offered modest reassurance after a visit Thursday, relaying medical reports that Mandela, still critically ill, was "now stable."

It was the latest in a series of official and unofficial assessments that have produced trepidation among Mandela's legions of supporters across the world. In an interview with the state broadcaster, Mandela's eldest daughter, Makaziwe Mandela, described his condition as "very critical" and warned, "Anything is imminent."

"I won't lie," she added. "It doesn't look good." □



A man carries a placard calling US President Obama "The Kitchen Boy of the White House" and expressing many things he thinks are wrong with US foreign policy, as Protestors demonstrate against the upcoming visit of U.S. President Barack Obama in Pretoria, South Africa, Friday June 28, 2013.

(AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

to Mandela, "if not directly to him but to his family, is simply our profound grati-

tional Congress party rallied outside the hospital in the capital, Pretoria, where

Phoenix, Las Vegas bake in scorching hot temps

Continued from Front

The heat is not expected to break until Monday or Tuesday.

The scorching weather presented problems for airlines because high temperatures can make it more difficult for planes to take off. Hot air reduces lift and also can diminish engine performance. Planes taking off in the heat may need longer runways or may have to shed weight by carrying less fuel or cargo.

Smaller jets and propeller planes are more likely to be affected than bigger airliners that are better equipped for extreme temperatures.

The National Weather Service said Phoenix reached 116 degrees (47 Celsius) on Friday, two degrees short of the expected high, in part because of a light layer of smoke from wildfires in neighboring New

Mexico that shielded the blazing sun. Las Vegas still was expecting near record highs over the weekend approaching 116, while Phoenix was forecast to hit

nearly 120 degrees (49 Celsius). The record in Phoenix is 122 degrees (50 Celsius). Temperatures are also expected to soar across Utah

and into Wyoming and Idaho, with triple-digit heat forecast for the Boise area. Cities in Washington state that are better known for cool, rainy weather should

break the 90s next week. The heat is the result of a high-pressure system brought on by a shift in the jet stream, the high-altitude air current that dictates weather patterns. The jet stream has been more erratic in the past few years. Health officials warned people to be extremely careful when venturing outdoors. The risks include not only dehydration and heat stroke but burns from the concrete and asphalt. Dogs can suffer burns and blisters on their paws by walking on scorching pavement. Cooling stations were set up to shelter the homeless as well as elderly people who can't afford to run their air conditioners. In Phoenix, Joe Arpaio, the famously hard-nosed sheriff who runs a tent jail, planned to distribute ice cream and cold towels to inmates this weekend. □



Cheng Jia, of China, poses by a digital thermometer at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center in Death Valley National Park Friday, June 28, 2013 in Furnace Creek, Calif. Excessive heat warnings will continue for much of the Desert Southwest as building high pressure triggers major warming in eastern California, Nevada, and Arizona.

(AP Photo/Chris Carlson)

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Plaintiffs in California gay marriage case wed

LISA LEFF
Associated Press
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

couples like themselves in their fight for marriage equality," Harris, who had

Sponsors of California's same-sex marriage ban called the appeals court's

swift action "outrageous."

"The resumption of same-sex marriage this day has been obtained by illegitimate means. If our opponents rejoice in achieving their goal in a dishonorable fashion, they should be ashamed," said Andy Pugno, general counsel for a coalition of religious conservative groups that sponsored Proposition 8.

"It remains to be seen whether the fight can go on, but either way, it is a disgraceful day for California," Pugno said.

The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 Wednesday that Proposition 8's sponsors lacked authority to defend the measure in court once Harris and Gov. Jerry Brown, both Democrats, refused to do so.

The decision lets stand a trial judge's declaration that the ban, approved by voters in November 2008, violates the civil rights of gay Californians and cannot be enforced.

Under Supreme Court rules, the losing side in a legal dispute has 25 days to ask the high court to rehear the case.

The court said earlier this week that it would not finalize its ruling in the Proposition 8 case until after that time had elapsed.

It was not immediately clear whether the appeals court's action would be halted by the high court, but Gov. Jerry Brown directed California counties to start performing same-sex marriages immediately in the wake of it. □



Kris Perry, foreground left, kisses Sandy Stier as they are married at City Hall in San Francisco, Friday, June 28, 2013. Stier and Perry were married Friday, June 28, 2013, after a federal appeals court on Friday cleared the way for the state of California to immediately resume issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples after a 4 1/2-year freeze.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

The lead plaintiffs in the U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned California's same-sex marriage ban tied the knot at San Francisco City Hall on Friday, about an hour after a federal appeals court freed same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses for the first time in 4 1/2 years.

State Attorney General Kamala Harris presided at the wedding of Kris Perry and Sandy Stier as hundreds of supporters looked on and cheered. The couple sued to overturn the state's voter-approved gay marriage ban along with Jeff Katami and Paul Zarrillo, who planned to marry Friday evening at Los Angeles City Hall.

"By joining the case against Proposition 8, they represented thousands of

asked the appeals court to act swiftly, said during Stier and Perry's brief ceremony. "Through the ups and downs, the struggles and the triumphs, they came out victorious."

Harris declared Perry, 48, and Stier, 50, "spouses for life," but during their vows, they took each other as "lawfully wedded wife." One of their twin sons served as ring-bearer.

Although the couple have fought for the right to wed for years, their wedding came together in a flurry when a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a brief order Friday afternoon dissolving, "effective immediately," a stay it imposed on gay marriages while the lawsuit challenging the ban advanced through the courts.



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US officials approve only horse slaughterhouse

JERI CLAUSING
Associated Press
ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — U.S. officials have cleared the way for a return to domestic horse slaughter, granting a company's application to convert its cattle facility into the country's only horse processing plant.

A return to horse slaughter has divided animal welfare groups, ranchers, politicians and Indian tribes over the most humane way to deal with the country's horse overpopulation and what rescue groups have said is a rising number of neglected and starving horses as the West deals with persistent drought.

Valley Meat Co. wants to ship horse meat to countries where people cook with it or feed it to animals. The number of U.S. horses sent to other countries for slaughter has nearly tripled since domestic slaugh-

ter was banned in 2006, according a 2011 report from the Government Accountability Office that shows horse abuse and

abandoned to starve or shipped to inhumane facilities in Mexico. Many humane groups agree that some of the worst abuse

occurs in the slaughter pipeline. Many are pushing for a both a ban on domestic slaughter as well as a ban on shipping horses to Mexico and Canada. Congress reinstated funding for inspections at horse processing plants in 2011, but the Department of Agriculture had resisted approving Valley Meat Co.'s application, prompting a company lawsuit accusing the USDA of intentionally delaying the process because the Obama administration opposes horse slaughter. In approving Valley Meat Co. plans to produce horse meat in New Mexico, USDA officials also indicated that they would grant similar permits

to companies in Iowa and Missouri as early as next week. The USDA is lobbying for an outright ban on horse slaughter, and the Obama administration's budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year eliminates funding for inspections of horse slaughterhouses, which would effectively reinstate a ban on the industry. The company's attorney said on Friday that he remained skeptical about Valley Meat Co.'s chances of opening any time soon, as the USDA must send an inspector to oversee operations and two animal rights groups have threatened lawsuits to block the opening.



Photo shows Valley Meat Co., which has been sitting idle for more than a year, waiting for the Department of Agriculture to approve its plans to slaughter horses. Federal officials have granted the southeastern New Mexico company's request to open a horse slaughterhouse, adding Friday June 28, 2013 that they plan to grant similar permits to operations in Iowa and Missouri.

(AP Photo/Jeri Clausing)

abandonment have been increasing. Proponents of a return to domestic horse slaughter say it is better to slaughter the animals in humane, federally regulated facilities than have them

US woman indicted over ricin letters

TEXARKANA, Texas (AP) — A U.S. woman was indicted Friday on charges that she sent ricin-laced letters to President Barack Obama

eral prosecutors said. Shannon Richardson, 35, is charged with two counts of mailing a threatening communication and one

Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas said in a news release. "What's in this letter is nothing compared to what I've got in store for you, Mr. President," the letter to Obama said. Richardson, an actress from Texas, was arrested June 7. She is accused of sending the threatening letters in May to Obama, Michael Bloomberg and a third man who heads the billionaire mayor's gun-control group. Richardson faces up to five years in prison on each of the charges. Richardson's court-appointed attorney, Tonda Curry, was not immediately available for comment. The government accused Richardson of mailing the letters and trying to pin the crime on Nathan Richardson, whom she married in 2011. He filed for divorce earlier this month.

Authorities have said that the ricin letters threatened violence against gun-control advocates.



Shannon Richardson is placed into a Titus County Sheriff's car at the federal building Texarkana, Texas. A federal grand jury has indicted Richardson, who authorities say sent ricin-laced letters to President Barack Obama and others in an attempt to frame her estranged husband.

(AP Photo/Curt Youngblood)

and New York City's mayor in an attempt to frame her estranged husband, fed-

count of making a threat against the president of the United States, the U.S.

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US Financial Front:

American consumer sentiment stays near 6-year high



Customers look at models of the Nook tablet at a Barnes and Noble store in Pineville, N.C. A measure of U.S. consumer confidence remained near a six-year high in June as higher home prices boosted household wealth. The survey shows Americans are feeling better about the economy, despite wild gyrations in the stock market. (AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

A measure of U.S. consumer confidence remained near a six-year high in June as higher home prices boosted household wealth. The survey shows Americans are feeling better about the economy, despite wild gyrations in the stock market. The University of Michigan said Friday that its final reading of consumer sentiment in June was 84.1. That's an improvement from a preliminary reading of 82.7 issued on June 14. And it is just slightly below May's final reading of 84.5, which was the highest since July 2007.

Rising household wealth was the main reason consumers stayed optimistic. Households with income above \$75,000, those more likely to own homes and stocks, reported the biggest gain.

Consumers' confidence is closely watched because their spending accounts for 70 percent of economic growth. Stocks pared steep

early morning losses after the report was released. The Dow Jones industrial average, which was down as much as 140 points at one point, rebounded to 70 points lower at midday. The University of Michigan polls roughly 500 people throughout the month and issues two readings.

The slight improvement from the preliminary survey suggests consumers were unfazed by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's June 19 comments about the Fed's bond purchases. Bernanke said the Fed could start to slow its bond buying by the end of the year and end it next year, if the economy continues to strengthen. The bond purchases have kept long-term interest rates low.

Stocks fell sharply in the days after Bernanke's comments and interest rates jumped. The average rate on the 30-year fixed mortgage surged this week to a two-year high of 4.46 percent. That's up from 3.93 percent last week and

a full point higher than a month ago. "Consumers remain optimistic despite recent market volatility and a back-up in mortgage rates," said Yelena Shulyatyeva, an economist at BNP Paribas.

Americans seem to agree with the Fed's view that the economy is slowly improving. A measure of their expectations for future growth rose to an eight-

month high. Employers have been adding jobs at stable pace, while the unemployment rate has slowly fallen to a still-high 7.6 percent. Higher home sales and prices have driven a steady housing recovery. And on Tuesday the Conference Board said the improved job market helped lift its survey of consumer confidence to the highest level in 5½ years, a

point echoed by Friday's Michigan consumer sentiment survey. "Consumers now believe the recovery has achieved an upward momentum that will not be easily reversed," Richard Curtin, director of the Michigan survey, said. More Americans said they planned to buy a home, despite rising mortgage rates, according to the Michigan survey. □



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Violence flares in Egypt before weekend protests

TONY G. GABRIEL
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Tens of thousands of supporters and opponents of President Mohammed Morsi rallied Friday in Cairo, and both sides fought each other in the second-largest city of Alexandria, where two people were killed — including an American — and 85 were injured while at least five offices of Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood were torched, officials said. The competing camps were trying to show their strength before even bigger nationwide protests planned by the opposition Sunday — the first anniversary of Morsi's inauguration — aimed at forcing his removal.

The opposition says it will bring millions into the streets across Egypt, and more violence is feared. Already, six people have been killed in clashes this week, including Friday's deaths.

The Cairo International Airport was flooded with departing passengers, an exodus that officials said was unprecedented. All flights

departing Friday to Europe, the U.S. and the Gulf were fully booked, they said.

Many of those leaving were families of Egyptian officials and businessmen and those of foreign and Arab League diplomats — as well as many Egyptian Christians, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.

The U.S. State Department warned Americans against all but essential travel to Egypt, citing the uncertain security situation. It also said it would allow some non-essential staff and the families of personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo to leave until conditions improve.

Opposition protesters in Alexandria broke into the local headquarters of Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood and set fires, throwing papers and furniture out the windows.

For several days, Brotherhood members and opponents of Morsi have battled in cities in the Nile Delta. With Friday's deaths, at

least six have been killed this week.

"We must be alert lest we slide into a civil war that does not differentiate between supporters and opponents," warned Sheikh Hassan al-Shafie, a senior cleric at Al-Azhar, the coun-

leave" — this time addressing Morsi. Tents were put up on the grass in the middle of the historic square.

Dozens of protesters also gathered at the gates of the presidential palace in the Heliopolis neighborhood of Cairo, urging him

Islamist parties have decided to hold a sit-in.

"They say the revolution is in Tahrir," said young activist Abdel Rahman Ezz, a Morsi supporter who addressed the crowd. "It is true the revolution started in Tahrir. But shamefully, today the



Egyptian protesters shout anti-Muslim Brotherhood slogans as they hold posters depicting U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Anne Patterson and President Mohammed Morsi during a protest in Tahrir Square, the focal point of Egyptian uprising, in Cairo, Egypt, Friday, June 28, 2013. Arabic on the poster at center reads, "shave your beard show your shame, you will look like Mubarak."

(AP Photo/Amr Nabil)



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Morsi opponents massed in Cairo's Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the protests in 2011 that ousted longtime leader Hosni Mubarak. The crowd shouted, "Leave,

to resign, Egypt's state news agency reported.

At the same time, tens of thousands of Morsi supporters, mainly Islamists, filled a public square outside the Rabia el-Adawiya Mosque, not far from the palace. Is-

remnants of the old regime are in Tahrir. The revolutionary youth are here."

The palace is one of the sites where the opposition plans to gather Sunday and has been surrounded by concrete walls. □



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EU strikes 2 major deals, stumbles on unemployment



French President Francois Hollande gestures while speaking during a media conference at an EU summit in Brussels on Friday, June 28, 2013. After late night budget talks, European Union leaders are turning their attention away from their financial troubles Friday and toward embracing once-troubled Balkan countries. (AP Photo/Michel Euler)

JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The past week has seen a rare flurry of activity in the European Union. Two major deals have been brokered — a €960 billion (\$1.3 trillion) budget for the 27-country bloc and a system for rescuing banks without making taxpayers foot the bill. But the leaders from the 27 nations achieved little progress on fighting youth unemployment and speeding up plans for a so-called banking union. The blueprint for the 2014-2020 budget includes the bloc's first-ever spending cuts, as many of its countries are in recession and struggling to reduce their national debt. Separate from national

finances, the EU budget funds everything from joint infrastructure projects and farming subsidies to development aid, research and employment measures. The seven-year plan was brokered early Thursday after months of infighting between the European Parliament and governments. An EU summit of leaders in Brussels then endorsed the compromise, sending it to Parliament for a formal vote next Wednesday. Unemployment is at an all-time high of 11 percent for the EU, which forms the world's largest economy, and stands at 12.2 percent for the group of 17 EU countries that use the euro. The plight is worse for the young, with almost one in four people aged under

25 without a job. In crisis-hit Greece and Spain, that rate is more than 50 percent. EU leaders agreed to speed up spending up to 6 billion euros — about 0.05 percent of the bloc's annual output of 13 trillion euros — to fight youth unemployment starting next year. However, they had announced that step since last year, and half of the money is only repackaged from other budget

positions. Analysts have warned that the step will make little to no difference, and European Parliament President Martin Schulz called it a "drop in the ocean." Leaders also called on the bloc's European Investment Bank to kick-start investment and job creation by boosting lending to small and medium-sized firms by up to 150 billion euros through until 2015. The increase in

lending is made possible by a capital increase decided last year. In the small hours of Thursday morning, European finance ministers reached a compromise on rules enshrining that bank rescues will be primarily funded by the banks' shareholders and creditors, with taxpayer money only a last resort. The new rules create certainty for investors and strengthen Europe's banking system. □



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Syrian opposition captures major checkpoint in south

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Rebels captured a major army post in the southern city of Daraa Friday after nearly two weeks of intense fighting, as battles raged between troops and opposition forces in the province that borders Jordan, activists said. Daraa, the provincial capital of a region that carries the same name, is the birthplace of the uprising against President Bashar Assad that started 27 months ago. Rebels hope to one day launch an offensive from the area to take the capital, Damascus.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which has a network of activists around the country, said Islamic militants led by members of the al-Qaida affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra, or the Nusra Front, captured the checkpoint after a two-week siege.

It said rebels blew up a car bomb Thursday killing and wounding a number of soldiers then stormed the post, made up of two of

Rahman, who heads The Observatory. He added that the capture opens the way for rebels to take the southern neighborhood of

buildings after putting explosives inside it.

"This is considered the most dangerous and powerful post in Daraa and the

Another video showed four militants carrying Nusra Front black flag standing in front of the building saying it will be blown up, apparently to prevent the regime from using it in case its forces capture it again.

The videos appeared genuine and were consistent with other AP reporting of the events. Earlier, the Observatory said intense shelling by Syrian government troops on the village of Karak in Daraa province killed at least 10 women and girls overnight. Buoyed by an influx of fighters from the Lebanese militia Hezbollah and other foreign Shiite Muslim militants, the Syrian regime has grabbed the initiative in the more than 2-year-old conflict in recent weeks, capturing a strategic town near the border with Lebanon and squeezing rebel positions around the capital, Damascus. It said two women were killed when a shell hit the home of a local rebel commander. The women killed were his mother and aunt, the Observatory said. A video posted on an Daraa activist's Facebook page showed the bodies of the women and children allegedly killed in the shelling lying wrapped in blankets. Another video from the village showed residents carrying other wounded into vehicles as women and children wailed. The videos appeared genuine and were consistent with other AP reporting of the events.

The United Nations has estimated that more than 6,000 children are among the some 93,000 people killed in Syria's more than 2-year-old conflict, which started with largely peaceful protests against the rule of President Bashar Assad.



This citizen journalism image shows anti-Syrian regime protesters holding a banner with a message for South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela during a demonstration, at Hass town, Idlib province, northern Syria, Friday, June 28, 2013.

(AP Photo/Edlib News Network ENN)

the highest buildings in the city.

"This post is very important because it overlooks old Daraa," said Rami Abdul-

Manshiyeh that is close to the Jordanian border.

An amateur video posted by activists showed rebels blowing up one of the two

whole province," said a man whose voice could be heard in the video as smoke billowed from the building.

Mexico leftist party leader found slain in Oaxaca

E. CASTILLO
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The leader of Mexico's main leftist party in the southern state of Oaxaca has been found slain, little more than a week before local elections.

The Oaxaca attorney general's office said the body of Nicolas Estrada Merino, 32, was found Thursday in a sugar cane field near the city of Tuxtepec. It said in a statement that Estrada had three gunshot wounds to the head and that investigators are looking into the circumstances of his death. The national leadership of his Democratic Revolution party, or PRD, condemned

the killing and demanded that authorities speed the investigation. They would not say if they thought his killing was election-related. "I don't want to say if this was political or party-related. We have to be cautious," Miguel Barbosa, PRD coordinator in the federal Senate, said Friday. "Clearly we're talking about a scenario of risk for those in politics. But it doesn't help us right now ... to make declarations that are going to provoke tension and fear among citizens who are going to have to express themselves through their votes on July 7."

Local elections for state representatives and may-

ors will be held July 7 in 14 of Mexico's 31 states.

The state of Oaxaca has been led since 2010 by a governor representing a coalition between the PRD and the conservative National Action Party, or PAN. Estrada was missing for more than two weeks. His car was found burned on July 16. Authorities estimate that he has been dead for some time because only his bones were discovered.

The attorney general's office said that Estrada's remains were identified by his brother, partly because of the clothing and also because he had a metal plate in his right forearm after suffering an accident in

2011.

Attacks on local elected officials or candidates are not uncommon in Mexico, especially during election seasons.

In the southern Mexico state of Chiapas, police arrested a mayoral candidate for the shooting death of a rival party member last year, and a candidate in the southern state of Guerrero was slain outside his home.

Drug cartels have also orchestrated attacks on politicians. The highest profile was the ambush killing in 2010 of Rodolfo Torre, gubernatorial candidate in the northern state of Tamaulipas. □



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Dominican groups reject gay US ambassador nominee



Newly nominated ambassador James "Wally" Brewster poses for a portrait in an unknown location. Brewster would be the seventh U.S. ambassador in history to be openly gay, but opponents on Friday asked the administration of Dominican President Danilo Medina to reject his nomination.

(AP Photo/US Embassy in Dominican Republic)

EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Religious groups in the Domini-

can Republic said Friday they are outraged by the nomination of a gay U.S. ambassador to the conservative Caribbean country.

Puerto Rico unveils trolleys at El Yunque tropical forest

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Officials at Puerto Rico's popular

El Yunque tropical rain forest have unveiled its first ever trolley system.

The \$2.3 million system features three trolleys with a capacity of 66 passengers that will guide tourists from Yokahu Tower to the path that leads to Mt. Britton.

Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi says tours will begin July 3 and are free for two years. He said Friday that the municipality of Rio Grande will pick up the \$75,000 annual tab to operate the U.S.-funded trolley system. El Yunque is the only tropical rain forest within the U.S. forest system. □

James "Wally" Brewster would be the seventh U.S. ambassador in history to be openly gay, but opponents are asking the administration of Dominican President Danilo Medina to reject his nomination.

Rev. Cristobal Cardozo, leader of the Dominican Evangelical Fraternity, said he worried about the message that Brewster's presence might send.

"It's an insult to good Dominican customs," he said. Cardinal Nicolas de Jesus Lopez, president of the Conference of the Dominican Episcopate, echoed similar sentiments.

"You can expect anything from the U.S.," said Lopez, who is also the archbishop of Santo Domingo.

Meanwhile, Vicar Pablo

Cedano criticized the nomination as "a lack of respect, of consideration, that they send us that kind of person as ambassador." "If he arrives, he'll suffer and will be forced to leave," Cedano warned, without elaborating.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Daniel Foote said in a brief statement to reporters that Brewster was nominated because of his skills as an international businessman and his ideas on democracy and human rights.

"Brewster arrives as an ambassador, he's not coming here as an activist for the gay community," Foote said. Local gay and lesbian activists condemned the outrage, saying the words of religious officials were filled with hate.

Nominating a gay man as ambassador should be viewed as normal, according to a statement by the umbrella nonprofit LGBT Collective.

The groups' stance "contrasts with the silence maintained by prelates and pastors when it comes to sexual assaults on children," said Leonardo Sanchez, of the nonprofit gay group Friends, Always Friends. Officials with Medina's administration have declined to comment on the issue.

"It would be in bad taste for the state to comment on this nomination," said Cesar Pina, a judicial consultant to the presidency. Brewster is currently a senior managing partner for the Chicago consulting firm SB&K Global. □



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North Korea likely to get snubbed at Asia forum

HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (AP) — The upcoming regional security summit in this tiny Southeast Asian sultanate is the sort of venue where North Korea has often managed to open up sideline discussions with Seoul and Washington. This time, while there will be plenty of talk about Pyongyang, there is little chance of substantive talk with it.

North Korea has sought negotiations with the U.S. and South Korea but has ignored their demands that it first honor prior commitments to move toward nuclear disarmament. At high-level diplomatic talks beginning this weekend, it can expect the cold shoulder from those countries and others frustrated by Pyongyang's insistence on developing nuclear weapons.

After a December long-range rocket launch, a February nuclear test and weeks of threats to launch nuclear strikes against South Korea and the United States, North Korea earlier this month made a surprise offer for separate talks with its rivals. Government delegates from the two Koreas met and agreed to hold senior-level talks on non-nuclear issues, but the agreement collapsed because of a protocol dispute. The United States responded coolly to Pyongyang's appeal for direct negotiations, which some analysts view as a familiar effort to win aid in return for ratcheting down tensions.

"While it is certainly preferable for North Korea to pursue diplomatic rather than missile or nuclear tests, all of North Korea's neighbors by now are well aware of North Korea's history of diplomatic initiatives as just another tool through which North Korea has sought to consolidate gains following periods in which North Korean brinkmanship has driven political tensions to

2008 would imply acceptance" of Pyongyang's rocket launches and nuclear tests.

Whether or not Washington and its allies ignore Pyongyang's diplomats, North Korea's atomic aspirations are on the agenda in talks surrounding the 27-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum, which takes place Tuesday in the

ligations" under U.N. Security Council resolutions and commitments made in a joint statement following six-party talks in 2005.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his counterparts from South Korea, China and Japan will attend the forum and could hold private meetings that touch on Pyongyang.

North Korea is expected to send its longtime foreign

Koreas — it has previously provided a chance to use informal, sideline talks to break stalemates over the nuclear issue.

In 2011, top nuclear envoys from the two Koreas met on the sidelines of the forum in Bali, Indonesia, and agreed to work toward a resumption of the dormant six-nation talks, though the negotiations remained stalled. The Koreas' foreign ministers held sideline talks in 2000, 2004, 2005 and 2007, and top diplomats from Pyongyang and Washington also met privately in 2004 and 2008. North Korea will likely seek similar talks in Brunei, but South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Cho Tai-young told reporters Tuesday that officials from Seoul aren't considering meeting the North Korean foreign minister on the sidelines.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell said Monday that he knew of no discussions planned between Kerry and Pak in Brunei, and that such talks would be "fairly unusual."

Analysts said North Korea appeared to be repeating its pattern of following aggressive rhetoric with diplomatic efforts to get outside aid and concessions.

Chang Yong Seok, an analyst at the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies at Seoul National University, said Pyongyang must do something to show it's refraining from continuing nuclear activities, such as announcing some disarmament steps, if it wants to have talks. □



North Korea's Unha-3 rocket lifts off from the Sohae launch pad in Tongchang-ri, North Korea. The upcoming regional security summit in this tiny Southeast Asian sultanate is the sort of venue where North Korea has often managed to open up sideline discussions with Seoul and Washington. This time, while there will be plenty of talk about Pyongyang, there is little chance of substantive talk with it.

(AP Photo/KCNA)

high levels," Scott Snyder, a Korea specialist at the Council on Foreign Relations think tank, wrote in a blog post.

He added that agreeing to hold talks with the North "and come back to the table as though nothing has changed since the last six-party talks were held in

Bruneian capital of Bandar Seri Begawan.

A draft of the forum chairman's statement provided to The Associated Press said that those meetings would reaffirm the importance of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, and that most participants urged North Korea "to abide by its ob-

minister, 80-year-old Pak Ui Chun, to the meeting, according to South Korea's Foreign Ministry.

Because the ASEAN forum gathers diplomats from all six countries involved in long-stalled nuclear disarmament negotiations — the United States, China, Russia, Japan and the two



Persbericht Hi-Winds 2013:

It's time for the 27th Aruba Hi-Winds!



ORANJESTAD - Just a few days left and the Aruba Hi-Winds 27th annual will begin! People are talking about it, you hear the radio spots, you see it on television, flyers, magazines and posters are spread all over Aruba! This weekend they will start to build the event site, the registration will start on Tuesday, July 2nd and that will be followed by the opening and a welcome party. The two organizers Cees Terpstra and Jorke Braaks-

ma have changed a few things to make the event better and bigger: "This year we spend more attention to the competitions with our 1st Aruba Hi-Winds XCC Mountain Bike Event, more long distance races for windsurfers and kites, a beachtennis competition and SUP races. Now everyone can participate in the Aruba Hi-Winds!!" Besides all the races and competitions this year there will again be a Fashion Show and a Night Kite



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Show. Cool FM will transmit from the beach and there will be a Lounge area all week long. Entertainment on Friday, Saturday and Sunday will include: Zazazú, Earplugs, DJ Mr. Ed. D, Datapanik, Mystical Connection and Honeypot. They will give live performances you don't want to miss! Professional kitesurfer Rob Douglas, world record holder speed sailing with

55.65 knots, will participate in the long distance races this year. Also the pro kitesurfers Damien Leroy and Melissa Gil will strengthen the jury of the Hi-Winds! On Monday, July 8, the Aruba Hi-Winds Awards Evening will be held at Paseo Herencia, where the prizes will be given away to the winners and where the Aruba Hi-Winds 2013 Event Movie will be shown for the first time! The organization



Mike and Carolyn in love aboard the Jolly Pirates and Chickee 68



PALM BEACH - From Gloucester Mass, Michael Blair and Carolyn Nazzaro who hails from Long Island had never crossed paths, it was destiny that the two would meet and forge an unforgettable friendship turned romance in Aruba at the Playa Linda Resort. Theirs is a bona fide Love Story and as the tale is re-told, by Mike I could not help but be reminded of the old romantic movie

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with Alan Alda, Same Time Next Year. You might say that their stars very slowly began to align themselves when it the late 80's each had purchased timeshares to fall coincidentally on the same Week 10 at the charming Playa Linda Resort nestled smack in the heart of the stretch of Palm Beach. In 2005 the Basiruti Beach Bar would become the romantic spot where the couple first locked eyes one sunny afternoon. And although the timing was not quite right, it was inevitable that the chatty New Englander, Mike and this adorable girl from Long Island, Carolyn would soon forge an ever-lasting friendship that would only strengthen over the years. It is Mike who affectionately recounts the sweetheart tale of "Mike and Carolyn", their chance meeting, greeting and the proposal, "It wasn't long before we realized that we were falling

in love and so our lives began to grow together and over the years we fell MADLY in love. We knew that we wanted to spend the rest of our lives together! " Friends flew in from near and far to celebrate the their union at an unforgettable destination wedding held in Aruba, where the couple first fell head over heels in love. Guests report that every moment from start to finish was lovely. "Our incredible connection, our amazing friends and every detail of our special day were celebrated at the Playa Linda Beach Resort. Explains the groom, our Playa Linda friends and family flew in to share our Aruba Home and a special highlight was the day we hosted everyone aboard the Jolly Pirate Ship. More highlights included the couples friends and family on an ATV outing, dining and drinking, beach time and countless happy hours spent at Chickee 68. □

Quota Club ladies shop till they drop at Caribbean Clothing Co.



selection of stylish fedoras perfect for island weather. For the fabulous women out there, the store offers beautiful flowing dresses for women of all shapes and

sizes, fabulous accessories for any occasion, and a variety of fashionable hats. Come visit our elegantly appointed store on Main Street, right across from Pa-

nache and Kock Optica. Our opening hours are 10 AM – 6 PM, Monday - Saturday. Our welcoming staff is eagerly waiting to assist you. ☐



PALM BEACH - Last Thursday night, the members of Quota International of Aruba were invited to enjoy fine wine and cheese at the fabulous Caribbean Clothing Co. It was a successful night not only for Caribbean Clothing Co., but also for the Quota Club ladies, who had a wonderful time choosing and showing off the on-trend outfits from the boutique's refreshing Caribbean-style collection.

Thoroughly impressed with the collection, the attendees couldn't resist going home with their favorite pieces. Caribbean Clothing Co. caters not only to women



but also to men. The boutique offers a wide range of comfortable and colorful men's shirts, trousers and shorts as well as t-shirts. The store also has a wide

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ORANJESTAD/ Montreal, Quebec – Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino and Renaissance Curaçao Resort and Casino have been named the best hotels on their respective Caribbean islands by Monarc.ca, the largest database of hotel reviews in Canada. The resorts were chosen for having the best value, quality to price ratio, restaurants and couples' travel experiences. Renaissance Curaçao was also recognized for its innovative Infinity Beach Club.

Located in the vibrant capital of Oranjestad, the AAA 4-Diamond Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino is in the midst renovating its adult-exclusive Marina Hotel, with \$35,000

being invested in each of the hotel's 297 guest rooms to give them a contemporary residential feel, with design cues that reference Aruba's natural palette. Family friendly accommodations are available in the spacious Ocean Suites. The resort also offers a private island experience on Renaissance Island, a 40-acre private island accessible by boat and open exclusively to resort guests, features a family-friendly cove at Iguana Beach and an adult-exclusive escape at Flamingo Beach.

Located in the heart of historic Willemstad, Renaissance Curaçao Resort & Casino offers guests 237 rooms designed with a combination of contemporary Caribbean flavor and traditional European sophistication. The resort, which opened in 2009, is home to the Infinity Beach



Club which features an elevated beach experience complete with natural ocean water, white sand, palm trees and sweeping ocean views. Adjacent to the resort is the Rif Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Both resorts offer guests plenty of entertainment through Renaissance's in-

teractive RLive Live program, upscale shopping at Renaissance Mall and Marketplace in Aruba and Renaissance Mall in Curaçao, expansive casinos and multi-screen cinemas. Monarc.ca presents visitors with reviews and ratings for over 1,000 hotels in the most popular sun destinations for Canadian travel-

ers. On November 1, 2012, Monarc.ca compiled over 47,000 reviews and ratings to establish a list of best rated establishments as voted by Monarc.ca members. These awards are presented each year and are a clear reflection of Canadian traveler's preferences.

What distinguishes Monarc.ca from other hotels and resort review sites is that only travelers who visited a hotel and purchased a trip from one of Monarc.ca participating travel retailer's website can write and publish a review. To ensure the integrity of information published on Monarc.ca, travelers receive a message including their recent trip information upon return. For more information or reservations, visit www.RenaissanceAruba.com or www.RenaissanceCuraçao.com. □

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HOME COURT ADVANTAGES

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — When a 19-stroke exchange ended with Andy Murray's Wimbledon opponent slapping a forehand into the net, thousands of Centre Court spectators rose in unison. They applauded Murray's

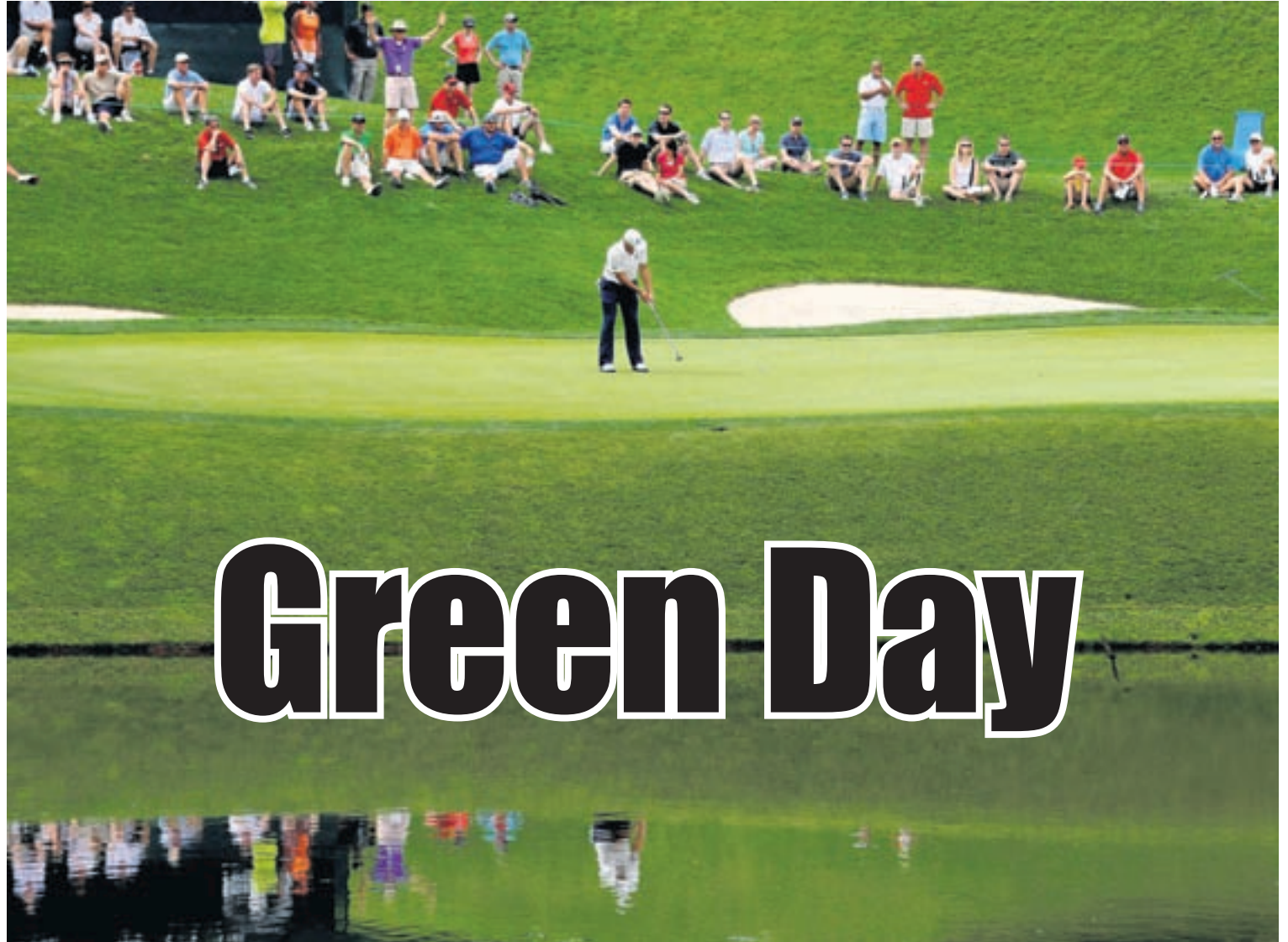


Andy Murray of Britain reacts during his Men's singles match at Wimbledon, London, Friday, June 28, 2013. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

first service break. They screamed for joy. They waved their Union Jacks and Scottish flags. It was only a third-round match, merely 12 minutes and three games old, yet to some that tiny early edge seemed massively meaningful.

So imagine the reaction, louder and livelier, when the second-seeded Murray finished off his 6-2, 6-4, 7-5 victory over 32nd-seeded Tommy Robredo of Spain less than two hours later Friday to advance to Week 2. And then, for a moment, try to fathom what would happen if Murray ever were to win the final point of The Championships, as the Grand Slam tournament is known around here, and become the first British man in 77 years to hoist the trophy.

Continued on Page 19



Jordan Spieth pars on the tenth green during the second round of the AT&T National golf tournament at Congressional Country Club, Friday, June 28, 2013, in Bethesda, Md. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

Spieth takes share of early lead at Congressional

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP)

— Jordan Spieth, playing with nothing to lose, gave himself another chance to win going into the weekend at the AT&T National. Spieth hit every green in regulation Friday and extended his streak to 29 holes without a bogey on a tough Congressional course, giving him a 5-under 66 and a share of the lead with Roberto Castro (69) before storms halted the second round. They were at 7-under 135, with the round to be completed Saturday morning. Players went back out to the practice range after a two-hour delay, only for more storms to approach

and extended the suspension until the PGA Tour called it for the day. Andres Romero was at 5 under with five holes remaining. No one else was within four shots of the lead. Spieth is the 19-year-old Texan who started the season with no status, uncertain where he was going to play. He now has earned over \$900,000 — the equivalent of being No. 39 on the PGA Tour money list — and is assured of a tour card when the new season starts in October. But he won't be eligible for the lucrative FedEx Cup playoffs unless he's a PGA Tour member, and he can't be a member this year unless he wins.

"Honestly, I think it's a great

position to be in," Spieth said. "I'm just free swinging. I can't be in the playoffs unless I win, and that makes winning the No. 1 goal. You'd like to get in the playoffs and play against the top players, the best players from this year. It's everyone's goal out here to win the FedEx Cup. My goal is to move up the world rankings as much as I can, and that's the way to do it, is to get into those playoffs."

D.H. Lee had a 66 and was two shots behind at 5-under 139. Cameron Tringale (67) and James Driscoll (69) were another shot behind, while the group at 3-under 139 included former British Open champion Stewart Cink (69), Gary Woodland

(69) and David Lingmerth, who went from around the cut line to contention with a 65.

Spieth has lived up to the hype he first generated when he played late on Sunday in the Byron Nelson Championship at age 16 and tied for 16th. In one year at Texas, the Longhorns won the NCAA title. And in six months as a pro, he has shown quickly that he belongs.

He already has four top 10s and has special temporary membership, meaning he gets unlimited exemptions. His goal was to somehow get a PGA Tour card for 2013-14 season, and a win would be over the top.

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Spieth takes share of early lead at Congressional

Continued from Page 17

Even so, the teenager who was born just three years before Tiger Woods turned pro is savvy to realize the tournament is not even halfway over.

"I can't really think about that at this point," he said. "There's a long way to go. I'm kind of free swinging. I've gotten in a position where I can play a pretty full schedule this year, and I know I'll have my card for next year. Now all there's left to do is try and get a win to make the playoffs. So I'm just going out there trying to win and being aggressive, and hopefully, it will work out for me."

Scoring was slightly better at Congressional, a course that has hosted the U.S. Open three times. Warmer weather in the morning made the ball fly a little farther and shortened the longest PGA Tour course on the mainland.

Spieth began his day with a 25-foot birdie putt on the first hole, avoided a long three-putt from above the hole on No. 4 by making a 12-foot par putt and then picked up four birdies over the final five holes on the front nine for a 31. He made nine pars on the back nine, never coming close to a bogey.

It was a clean round, executed well by a teenager who plays like he knows where he is going.

"I'm excited for what the weekend is going to bring," he said.

Castro tied the course record on the TPC Sawgrass in May with a 63 to lead the opening round of The Players Championship, and then he followed with a 78 and never seriously challenge the rest of the week. After opening with a 66 at Congressional, he dropped a shot early from a fairway bunker on No. 3 and was plodding along

until finishing the back nine with a pair of birdies, and then adding a birdie on the par-5 16th.

"I felt good," he said. "I probably learned a lot there (at Sawgrass) and realized that one round doesn't mean anything —

just got to keep going. And I was able to do that."

Defending champion Woods is not playing because of an elbow injury, and U.S. Open champion Justin Rose withdrew earlier in the week because of fatigue. Some of the

other big names most likely won't be around for the weekend, such as Hunter Mahan, who had a 72 and was at 5-over 147. Masters champion Adam Scott traded birdies and bogeys in his round of 71 that left him nine shots behind. □



Roberto Castro hits out of a bunker on the 12th hole during the second round of the AT&T National golf tournament at Congressional Country Club, Friday, June 28, 2013, in Bethesda, Md.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

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Murray, Robson keep British happy at Wimbledon

Continued from Page 17

"You need to be professional enough to not let that stuff bother you and just concentrate on each match," said Murray, who has won 20 of his past 21 contests on grass, including runs to last year's final at the All England Club and a London Olympics gold medal. "I did a good job of that today. I played well. My best match of the tournament, so far."

The locals' hopes that Murray will follow up his 2012 U.S. Open victory with another major title, this time at Wimbledon, only increased in the aftermath of surprisingly early losses this week by seven-time champion Roger Federer, two-time winner Rafael Nadal and two-time semifinalist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

All were seeded in the top six, and all were on Murray's half of the draw.

Their departures mean the most daunting obstacle in Murray's path — until a potential final against No. 1-ranked Novak Djokovic, anyway — might very well be surging expectations.

"There's a lot more pressure on me now, with them being out," Murray acknowledged after compiling 40 winners and only 14 unforced errors against Robredo, taking advantage of the zero-wind conditions under the closed retractable roof. "I mean, I don't read the papers and stuff. But there are papers in the locker room," Murray continued with a chuckle, "so you see some of the headlines and stuff. It's not that helpful." Nadal's stunning first-round exit, for example, was viewed mainly through the prism of how that result helped Murray, who could have faced the 12-time major champion in the semifinals. "Adios

Rafa. Hello Andy. Wimbledon dreams again," read a headline in The Times of

won his third straight-set match in a row. The lone other remaining singles

Mariana Duque-Marino of Colombia 6-4, 6-1. That match, like Murray's,



Laura Robson of Britain plays a return to Mariana Duque-Marino of Colombia during their Women's second round singles match at Wimbledon, London, Friday, June 28, 2013.

(AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

London. The Daily Mail's take: "Great start for Andy — Rafa's out." All in all, then, Friday was a perfectly British day, and not simply because Murray

player from the host country, 19-year-old Laura Robson, made her way into the third round at Wimbledon for the first time, defeating 117th-ranked qualifier

was played with the Centre Court covered because of rain that played havoc with the schedule, and Robson heard her share of rowdy support, too. □

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NBA DRAFT: In surprise, Cavaliers pick UNLV's Bennett

BENJAMIN HOFFMAN
© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - Presiding over his last NBA draft before he steps down as commissioner in February, David Stern soaked in his usual chorus of boos when he walked onstage at Barclays Center in Brooklyn on Thursday for the 2013 NBA draft.

For years Stern has served as an annual visual gag, with his height, perhaps a tad exaggerated at 5 feet 7 inches, serving as a sharp contrast to the supersized players he was introducing to the world. Over his 30 years on the job, player fashion varied wildly, but Stern remained a constant, except when he shaved his mustache. His last draft had some intrigue, as the Cleveland Cavaliers pulled a surprise by selecting Anthony Bennett, a power forward from Nevada-Las Vegas, with the top overall pick, rather than Nerlens Noel, a player talked of as a future No. 1 pick since he was in high school.

The selection of Bennett, a big-bodied rebounding specialist who has more shooting range than the

typical power forward, drew huge cheers.

Hailing from Canada, Bennett is just the seventh player born outside the United States taken with the first overall pick. He is the first player from UNLV to go in that spot since Larry John-

ing No. 1 or who was going No. 2. I heard everything was up for grabs."

Bennett was the fourth consecutive freshman to be taken with the first overall pick and the sixth in the past seven years. The last upperclassmen to

anterior-cruciate ligament, his slight 206-pound frame and his raw offensive game. Instead, Noel sat in the players' waiting area in the center of the arena until he was taken with the No. 6 pick by the New Orleans Pelicans.

It was an odd choice for the Pelicans, whose center is last year's No. 1 overall pick Anthony Davis, himself a one-and-done freshman from Kentucky like Noel. There were reports shortly after the selection that a trade was in the works that would send Noel to the Philadelphia 76ers for Jrue Holiday and a 2014 first-round pick, although no trade has been confirmed. Outside of Noel, who is expected to be an elite defender after he recovers from knee surgery, this draft lacked the star power of many of the drafts before it and had many pundits focusing on next year's loaded draft class. Because of that, a good deal of predraft discussion was focused on which teams were looking to trade down, or even out of the draft entirely. □



UNLV's Anthony Bennett celebrates after being selected first overall by the Cleveland Cavaliers in the first round of the NBA basketball draft, Thursday, June 27, 2013, in New York.

(AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)

son was selected in 1991. In his lone season at UNLV, Bennett averaged 16.1 points, 8.1 rebounds and 1.2 blocks a game while shooting 53.3 percent from the field. "I'm just as surprised as everyone else," Bennett said. "I didn't really have any idea who's go-

be taken with the first pick was Kenyon Martin, who went to the New Jersey Nets with the first pick of the 2000 draft after playing four years at Cincinnati. Most mock drafts had Noel going with the first pick despite concerns about his recovery from a torn

End of era as Celtics rebuild without Pierce

JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Letting coach Doc Rivers go to the Los Angeles Clippers was the first sign, and getting rid of Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett confirmed it — the Boston Celtics are rebuilding.

The Celtics have agreed to the terms of a deal that would send the two remaining members of the Big Three that won the 2008 NBA title to the Brooklyn Nets for a package of draft picks and players. Garnett is a future Hall of Famer, but it's Pierce's departure that signals the end of an era for the league's most-decorated franchise.

"It's sad to see everybody leave Boston. You just want them to go someplace where they have a chance to win, and they have," Rivers said at Clippers draft headquarters late Thursday. "It's a great

trade for Boston, too; not now, later. Danny wanted to rebuild, and that's what he's doing."



Boston Celtics center Kevin Garnett, right, chats with teammate Paul Pierce on the bench during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Toronto Raptors in Boston, Wednesday, March 13, 2013.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

The longest-tenured member of the Celtics, Pierce is the team's captain, a 10-time All-Star and a likely Hall of Famer. He is the second-

leading scorer in the history of the NBA's most-decorated franchise, and also is in the team's top seven in re-

bounds, assists, steals, games and minutes played.

Garnett is also a future Hall of Famer, though only the last six years of his career were

in Boston. It was Pierce who had a chance to spend his entire career with the franchise and add his name to a list that includes Hall of Famers Larry Bird, Bill Russell and John Havlicek.

"(It's) sort of sad. You hate to see it," said Chicago Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau, who was an assistant on the Celtics 2008 championship team. "But that's the NBA. It's constant change, and you have to be ready to adapt."

"Good for the Celtics, where they can start their rebuilding."

Rivers' exit was negotiated with the Clippers, landing Boston a first-round draft choice in 2015 and freeing the Celtics from the \$21 million remaining on his contract. Garnett and Pierce will go to Brooklyn as soon as the deal can be finalized on July 10. □

Allen returns to Miami Heat next season

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Ray Allen is returning to the Miami Heat next season.


Allen exercised his \$3.2 million player option Friday, barely a week after the Heat finished off the San Antonio Spurs to win the NBA Finals in seven games. Allen made one of the biggest shots in Heat history, a 3-pointer with 5.2 seconds left in Game 6 of the finals to tie the game and force an overtime where Miami ultimately prevailed.

Allen turns 38 next month, yet still played in 102 games during the regular season and playoffs for Miami. That was the most appearances by any player in the league this past season.

Teammates, coaches and the Heat front office all made it clear to Allen that he was wanted back for next season.

Allen left Miami following the end-of-season team meeting on Tuesday without giving the organization an answer, though didn't keep people waiting much longer. He could have elected to become a free agent and wound up getting more years and more money in a new deal, and decided to stay with the Heat anyway. Allen averaged 10.9 points in the regular season, and 10.2 points in the playoffs.

With the team exercising its option on starting point guard Mario Chalmers, and with Rashard Lewis and James Jones exercising their rights to stay for next season, the next major course of business for the Heat will be trying to woo Chris Andersen to stay when he becomes a free agent next week. Teammates believe Andersen, who has remained in Miami since the championship and is working out, wants to return to the Heat next season. The Heat will also have a large luxury-tax bill next season, though team president Pat Riley said earlier this week that he has not been given a mandate to pare a player like Mike Miller or Joel Anthony to relieve some of that burden. Riley's hope is to bring the roster back as intact as possible. □



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Tour de France:

Armstrong uninvited, unwanted guest at 100th edition

JOHN LEICESTER
AP Sports Writer

PORTO VECCHIO, Corsica (AP) — Lance Armstrong made himself the uninvited and unwanted guest at the Tour de France on Friday, coming back to haunt the 100th edition of the race and infuriating riders both past and present by talking at length in a newspaper interview about doping in the sport.

In answering questions from Le Monde, a newspaper he scorned when he was still competing, Armstrong ensured that his views on doping at the Tour would have maximum impact in France and couldn't easily be written off as sour grapes being hurled at the race from afar. The respected daily is very much France's newspaper of record. Its interview with the disgraced former winner and his assertion that doping won't be eradicated from cycling dominated French airwaves ahead of the race start on Saturday, causing dismay and anger in the sport desperate to prove that it has turned the page on his era of serial cheating.

The Tour's director, Christian Prudhomme, suggested Armstrong was milking the race's notoriety to further his own agenda.

"This is a very big tournament, just look around: There are 2,300 accredited journalists here, there are cameras everywhere. So if someone wanted to transmit a message, this is the time obviously, especially since everyone likes this kind of controversial statements," he said.

Armstrong's comments and the consternation they caused highlighted cycling's dilemma: It is a sport fighting to give itself

a cleaner, brighter future by combating drug cheats but much of that good work is being overshadowed by the dirty secrets of dopers from the past.

Pre-Tour, a drip-drip-drip of doping confessions and revelations about the Armstrong era have rained on the 100th edition. Armstrong's former rival on

of his titles from 1999-2005 were stripped from him last year for doping. He said his life has been ruined by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency investigation that exposed as lies his years of denials that he and his teammates doped. He also took another swipe at cycling's top administrators, darkly suggesting they could be

the body to produce oxygen-carrying red blood cells, giving a big performance boost to endurance athletes.

"The Tour is a test of endurance where oxygen is decisive," Le Monde quoted Armstrong as saying. It published the interview in French.

Asked later by The Asso-

for the Tour de France," Prudhomme said. "When Armstrong said it was impossible to win the Tour during those years without doping, he is probably trying to find excuses for himself and say implicitly that there was nothing else he could have done."

Jean-Rene Bernaudeau, manager of the Europcar



Tejay van Garderen of the U.S., center, and Steve Morabito of Switzerland, right, ride with their teammates during a training ahead of the start of Tour de France cycling race in Porto Vecchio, southern Corsica island, France, Friday June 28, 2013. The race starts in Porto Vecchio on Saturday June 29, and the 198-rider peloton, or pack, is to cover 3,479 kilometers (2,162 miles) over three weeks, 21 stages and two rest days, before an unusual nighttime finish July 21 on the Champs-Elysees in Paris.

(AP Photo/Laurent Cipriani)

French roads, 1997 Tour winner Jan Ullrich, admitted to blood-doping for the first time with a Spanish doctor. French media also reported that a Senate investigation into the effectiveness of anti-doping controls pieced together evidence of drug use at the 1998 Tour by Laurent Jalabert, a former star of the race now turned broadcaster.

There were no major surprises in Armstrong's interview: he told Le Monde that he still considers himself the record-holder for Tour victories, even though all seven

brought down by other skeletons in the sport's closet.

Armstrong's claim that it was "impossible" to win the Tour without doping in his era echoed what he already told U.S. television talk show host Oprah Winfrey in January, when he finally confessed. Then, he said doping was "part of the job."

The banned hormone erythropoietin, or EPO, wasn't detectable by cycling's doping controls until 2001 and so was widely abused because it prompts

ciated Press to clarify his comments, Armstrong confirmed on Twitter he was talking solely about the period from 1999-2005. He indicated that doping might not be necessary now.

"Today? I have no idea. I'm hopeful it's possible," Armstrong tweeted.

Still, his comments touched a nerve — both because cycling has since spent heavily on a pioneering anti-doping program and because Armstrong, once very much a boss of the peloton, is now a pariah.

"Those were cursed years

team, likened Armstrong to a robber who tells a bank how it should be run.

"I don't think it is nice that a guy who embodies a decade we should completely forget gives us lessons on how we should behave, while we were the ones who suffered during that time. It is almost surreal," he said. "This is unacceptable."

In a statement issued in the name of competitors at the 100th Tour, a union representing European professional riders said: "Enough is enough!" □

Wearable devices nudge you to a healthier lifestyle

DAVID POGUE

© 2013 New York Times

You've heard of the Quantified Self movement? It's the rise of watches, clips and bracelets that monitor your physical activity, sleep and other biological functions. The idea is that continual numerical awareness of your lifestyle works to motivate you: to park farther away, to get off the subway one stop sooner, to take more stairs. You study the graphs, you crunch the numbers, you live a longer, healthier life. (And you try to avoid being a crashing bore at parties.) The most popular such gizmo - or at least the most heavily marketed - has been Jawbone's stylish, rubberized, shower-proof Up band (\$130). For about a week on a battery charge, it quietly measures your movement, whether you are awake or asleep, and displays the results on your iPhone or Android phone. The trouble with the Up band, however, is the way it communicates with your phone. You remove the bracelet. Pull off a metal cap about the size of a blood cell. Plug the newly exposed connector into - get this - your phone's headphone jack. Open the app. After the

data transfer, disconnect the band, find the cap, snap it back on and put the bracelet on again.

No wireless? What is this, 1957?

The inconvenience is bad

new Flex band (\$100) communicates with your phone wirelessly and automatically. You don't have to remove, dismantle or even touch the band on your wrist. The Flex's factory set-

The Flex band makes little attempt to score style points. It's just a thin, solid gray or black rubber strap, a half-inch wide, thicker as it crosses the top of your wrist. But it's incredibly light

cle, so it doesn't catch on clothing, fly off with your sweater or gouge your hugging partners.

Second, it has a sort of screen. It usually looks like a dark stripe across the band, just a graphic accent. But if you tap twice on it, a line of bright LED dots lights up - up to five, indicating your progress so far that day toward whatever activity goal you set for yourself (say, 10,000 steps). Each dot indicates 20 percent toward your goal; achieving 100 percent earns you a vibrating, five-light flashing rubber-band celebration.

The third improvement is that you can remove the Flex's heart - a tiny, shiny black capsule that's held snugly in a pocket within the rubber. (In fact, you must remove it to charge it. The capsule snaps into a USB charging cord for that purpose. One charge lasts about five days.)

The beauty of this design is that you can snap that capsule into other Flex bands. You're not stuck with the look of the original. Once you have bought the original gray-band or black-band Flex kit, you can buy a \$30 set containing teal, orange and navy blue bands. □



An undated handout photo of the Fitbit Flex bracelet on the wrist. Tracker devices like Fitbit and Up keep you aware of your inactivity and lack of sleep, and motivate you to put your life onto a healthier track.

(Handout via The New York Times)

enough, but - well, let's put it this way: There's a reason Up sells a three-pack of replacement caps (\$10).

Now Fitbit, whose original 2008 tracker clipped to your clothing, has entered the bracelet game with a screamingly obvious improvement: Bluetooth. Its

ting is to transmit the data only when you open the Fitbit app on the phone, so you sacrifice little phone battery life.

(The Nike FuelBand, \$150, also uses Bluetooth, though it's a simpler device; it doesn't try to track sleep or diet.)

and comfortable. In fact, without looking, it's hard to remember if you're even wearing it. Compared to the Up - which is shaped like an overgrown C, with overlapping ends - the Flex's design has three advantages.

First, it's a complete cir-

UK closer to creating babies with DNA from 3 people

MARIA CHENG

AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Britain may allow a controversial technique to create babies using DNA from three people, a move that would help couples avoid passing on rare genetic diseases, the country's top medical officer says.

The new techniques help prevent women with faulty mitochondria — the energy source in a cell — from passing on to their babies defects that can result in such diseases as muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, heart problems and mental retardation. About one in 200 children is born every year in Britain with a mitochondrial disorder.

For a woman with faulty mitochondria, scientists take only the healthy genetic material from her egg or embryo. They then transfer that into a donor egg or embryo that still has its healthy mitochondria but has had the rest of its key DNA removed. The fertilized embryo is then transferred into the womb of the mother. Some groups oppose artificial reproduction techniques and believe the destruction of eggs or embryos to be immoral. British tabloids jumped on the procedure when it was first announced in 2008 and labeled it the creation of a three-parent baby — the mother, the donor and the father — a charge sci-

entists claim is inaccurate because the amount of DNA from the donor egg is insignificant. "Scientists have developed groundbreaking new procedures which could stop these diseases being passed on," Britain's chief medical officer, Dr. Sally Davies, said in a statement on Friday. "It's only right that we look to introduce this life-saving treatment as soon as we can." Similar research is going on in the U.S., where the embryos are not being used to produce children. Earlier this year, the U.K.'s fertility regulator said it found most people supported the new in vitro fertilization methods after a public consultation that included

hearings and written submissions. Critics have previously slammed the methods as unethical and say there are other ways for people with genetic problems to have healthy children, like egg donation or tests to screen out potentially problematic embryos. In a response to the public consultation, the charity Christian Medical Fellowship said the techniques were unethical. "We do not consider that the hunt for 'therapies' that might prevent a small number of disabled children (with mitochondrial disease) being born justifies the destruction of hundreds if not thousands of embryonic human lives," the group said. It also

said there were lingering concerns about the safety of the techniques.

British law forbids altering a human egg or an embryo before transferring it into a woman, so such treatments are currently only allowed for research. The government says it plans to publish draft guidelines later this year before introducing a final version to be debated in the U.K. Parliament next year. Politicians would need to approve the use of the new techniques before patients could be treated. If British lawmakers agree, the U.K. would become the first country in the world where the technique could be used to create babies. □

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TECH NOTES:

For professional gamers, a competitive dress rehearsal

DERRIK J. LANG
Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Past desks covered with extreme sports magazines and refrigerators stocked with energy drinks, a small isolation booth has been erected smack dab in the

middle of Red Bull's airy offices in Santa Monica, Calif. It's not for hosting meetings or employee breaks. It's for playing video games — very competitive video games.

The beverage company's North American headquar-

ters played host recently to the chummy Red Bull Training Grounds ahead of this weekend's Major League Gaming Spring Championship in Anaheim, Calif. Red Bull is betting this new take on training for competitive gaming — or e-sports,

as it's known — will give its players, to borrow Red Bull's slogan, wings.

The company, which is probably better known for sponsoring action sports stars and race cars than gamers, has previously hosted other e-sporting events, but Training Grounds marked the first time it focused on schooling players.

Despite being stationed amid cubicles, the inaugural Training Grounds event had most trappings of a typical mammoth e-sports event: lights, cameras, competitors, commentators and prize money. However, there was no live audience to cheer on the eight international e-athletes, and the gamers were only competing in one title, the real-time strategy game "StarCraft II."

"The idea behind Training Grounds is to find that happy medium between competition and training," said Rob Simpson, Red Bull's e-sports program manager.

"While we do have a prize pool on the line ... focus is really on analysis and growing as players. I think it's a positive thing that people want to consume this kind of information."

Simpson isn't just referring to the eight "StarCraft II" players who were gearing up for the MLG championship but also the 200,000 spectators who watched more than 20 hours of matches broadcast online by Red Bull. The inaugural event was as much of a promotional affair as it was preparation for players who will be battling in this weekend's MLG contest. Since the e-sports genre first pressed start with arcade face-offs in the 1980s and LAN parties in the 1990s, there are more competitors than ever before, with a growing gap between seasoned pros and newbs. Those involved agree the more time gamers play in championship settings, the better they fare against the ruthless Zerg alien race in "StarCraft." □



Legendary "WarCraft 3" player, Jo "Golden" Myeong Hwan, from South Korea, left, joins seven of the world's best "StarCraft II" video game players to train at Red Bull Training Grounds, held at Red Bull North America headquarters in Santa Monica, Calif. The Red Bull TV e-sports series included live-streamed scrimmages and a tournament with \$8,600 in prize money.

(AP Photo/ Damian Dovarganes)

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US stocks fall in quiet end to a very turbulent month

BERNARD CONDON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After flitting between tiny gains and losses most of Friday, the stock market closed mostly lower, a peaceful end to the most volatile month in nearly two years. "It's a dull Friday," said Gary Flam, a stock manager at Bel Air Investment Advisors. A bull market, he added, is "rarely a straight march up." The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended its bumpy ride in June down 1.5 percent, the first monthly loss since October. Still, the index had its best first half of a year since 1998. Investors seemed unsure

and downs."

The S&P 500 stock index closed down 6.92 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,606.28. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 114.89 points, or 0.8 percent, to 14,909.60. The Nasdaq composite index rose 1.38 points, or 0.04 percent, to 3,403.25. Stocks have jumped around in June. By contrast, the first five months of the year were mostly calm, marked by small but steady gains as investors bought on news of higher home prices, record corporate earnings and an improving jobs market.

By May 21, the S&P 500 had climbed to a record 1,669. Fed Chairman Ben Bernan-

but then had second thoughts this week as other Fed officials stressed that the central bank wouldn't pull back on its support soon. The Dow gained 365 points over the previous three days this week. The Dow has had 16 triple-digit moves for the month, the most since September 2011. Bonds have also been on a bumpy ride in recent weeks, mostly down.

The prospect of fewer purchases by the Fed sent investors fleeing from all sorts of bonds — municipals, U.S. Treasury securities, corporate bonds, foreign government debt and high-yield bonds. Investors pulled



Traders Gregory Rowe, left, and Mark Muller, center, work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange at the close of trading, Friday, June 28, 2013. Stocks are ending mostly lower on Wall Street as the market closes out a turbulent month.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

how to react to recent statements by Federal Reserve officials about when the central bank might end its support for the economy. Mixed economic news added to investors' uncertainty Friday. An index of consumer confidence was up but a gauge of business activity in the Chicago area plunged.

"Investors don't know what to make of the news," said John Toohey, vice president of stock investments at USAA Investment Management. "I wouldn't be surprised to see more ups

ke spoke the next day, and prices began gyrating.

Investors have long known that the central bank would eventually pull back from its bond purchases, which are designed to lower interest rates and get people to borrow and spend more. Last week, Bernanke got more specific about the timing. He said the Fed could start purchasing fewer bonds later this year, and stop buying them completely by the middle of next year, if the economy continued to strengthen. Investors dumped stocks,

a record \$23 billion from bond mutual funds in the five trading days ended Wednesday, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Bond yields, which move in the opposite direction of bond prices, have rocketed.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.49 percent from 2.47 percent late Thursday. Last month, the yield was as low as 1.63 percent. Treasury yields help set borrowing costs for a large range of consumer and business loans. □

News Corp

This image provided by News Corp. shows their new logo. It is described as a new, friendlier-looking logo for its publishing division as it prepares to split the company in two by the end of June. The logo, in cursive lettering, is based on the handwriting of founder Rupert Murdoch and his father. It replaces the striped globe of the current News Corp. brand.

(AP Photo/News Corp)

News Corp splits at closing bell

NEW YORK (AP) — News Corp. formally split in two after the market closed Friday, with existing shareholders getting one share in the new publishing entity for every four shares they hold in the media company.

Since Wednesday last week, preliminary shares of both sides of the company have been trading as if the split already occurred. Any buyers of preliminary shares will receive them next Friday.

Preliminary publishing shares closed Friday at \$15.25.

The recent trading valued the publishing division, to be named News Corp., at around \$8.8 billion. That's about 12 percent of the entire company's value. It had a market capitalization of about \$75.5 billion before the split.

The movie and TV division is being renamed Twenty-First Century Fox Inc. Its preliminary stock closed at \$28.99 on Friday.

Shares of both entities will begin trading normally on Monday, with new News

Corp. shares trading under the tickers "NWSA" for non-voting Class A shares and "NWS" for voting Class B shares. Twenty-First Century Fox shares will trade under the tickers "FOXA" for non-voting Class A shares and "FOX" for voting Class B shares.

Rupert Murdoch, who will be chairman of both companies and CEO of Twenty-First Century Fox, will retain his grip on both companies by controlling nearly 40 percent of the voting stock in each.

The split completes a process that the company announced a year ago, and responds to investor concerns that the newspaper and book publishing divisions were dragging on the faster growing pay TV business.

By separating, the publishing division can devote resources toward engineering a turnaround, while the Fox side focuses on launching a national sports network to be called Fox Sports 1 that will compete with pay TV leader ESPN. □

Prosensa leaps in 1st day of trading on the Nasdaq

The Associated Press Shares of Prosensa are rising Friday in the Dutch biotechnology company's first day on the Nasdaq.

Prosensa Holding BV climbed \$6.26, or 48.3 percent, to \$19.26 in afternoon trading.

The initial public offering of 6 million shares was priced at \$13 apiece, at the high end of the projected price range of \$11 to \$13.

Prosensa raised \$78 million in the offering.

The underwriters have a 30-day option to buy up to 900,000 more shares to cover any excess demand. The company plans to use the proceeds to fund its Duchenne muscular dystrophy development portfolio, its early-stage DMD discovery work and DMD-support projects, to fund other non-DMD projects and for working capital and general corporate purposes.

The stock trades under the "RNA" ticker symbol. □

RIM posts larger-than-expected loss, shares plunge

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Shares of BlackBerry maker Research In Motion plunged nearly 30 percent Friday after the company posted a loss and warned of future losses despite releasing its make-or-break new smartphones this year.

stantial period of sales of the Z10 phone in the U.S. It didn't include sales numbers for the Q10 in the U.S. The Q10 just went on sale in the U.S. earlier this month. Sales results and RIM's projections, however, signal that the new BlackBerry 10 phones are not selling well. The company said it an-

ticipates it will generate an operating loss in the second quarter, too.

Mike Walkley, an analyst with Canaccord Genuity, said it's clear the new operating system has not turned the company around.

"With Z10, Q10, and Q5 all shipping in the August

quarter and BlackBerry still guiding to a loss we believe that is strong evidence BB10 has not turned around BlackBerry in an extremely competitive smartphone market," Walkley said. Chief Executive Thorsten Heins said on a conference call with analysts that the "transition takes time" and noted things are better compared to last year when "we were told the company was finished."

Shares of Research in Motion Ltd. dropped \$4.02, or 28 percent, to close at \$10.46 Friday.

The BlackBerry, introduced in 1999, was once the dominant smartphone for on-the-go business people. But it lost its cachet not long after Apple released the first iPhone in 2007. Apple's device reset expectations for what a smartphone can do. RIM promised to catch up while developing new a software system called BlackBerry 10, which uses technology it got through its 2010 purchase of QNX Software Systems. But the company took more than two years to un-

veil new phones that were redesigned for the multimedia, Internet browsing and apps experience that customers now demand. During that time, RIM cut more than 5,000 jobs and saw shareholder wealth of more than \$70 billion vanish. The Canadian company said it lost \$84 million, or 16 cents a share, in the three months ended June 1 on revenue of \$3.1 billion. It lost \$518 million, or 99 cents per share, on revenue of \$2.8 billion a year ago. Analysts expected RIM to earn 5 cents a share on revenue of \$3.37 billion. The number of BlackBerry users in the world also fell by four million to 72 million. RIM also said it anticipates it will generate an operating loss in the second quarter. Heins noted the highly competitive smartphone market makes it difficult to estimate revenue and levels of profitability.

Heins also announced on the call that he has halted further development of RIM's failed tablet offering, the Playbook. The Playbook has not sold well. □



Thorsten Heins, CEO of Research in Motion, introduces the BlackBerry Z10, in New York. Research in Motion Ltd. Reported poor quarterly financial results before the market opened on Friday, June 28, 2013. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

RIM also announced that it will stop developing new versions of its slow-selling tablet computer called the Playbook.

Analysts were looking for insight into how phones running RIM's new BlackBerry 10 operating system are selling. It wasn't good. RIM said it sold 6.8 million phones overall versus 7.8 million last year. That includes older models. In wasn't until well into a conference call with analysts that RIM announced that 2.7 million of the devices sold in the quarter were BlackBerry 10 models.

RIM's BlackBerry 10 operating system is critical to the company's comeback. New phones running the BlackBerry 10 software began selling around the world this year. The BlackBerry Z10, a touchscreen model and the Q10, which sports a keyboard, have received positive reviews, but there was a delay in getting them to market in the U.S. The first quarter, however, included a sub-

Sony begins 'upfront' sales of ads for PlayStation 3

STUART ELLIOTT

© 2013 New York Times

Sony has already taken part in the upfront market for the sale of commercial time ahead of the 2013-14 season, for properties like the GSN cable channel and the Crackle digital video website. Now, the company is expanding the upfront selling process to the PlayStation 3 video game system.

The Sony Pictures Television division of Sony Pictures Entertainment is selling ad units in advance, like those that fill the welcome screen of the PlayStation Store, which game players see when they switch on the console. Instead of going by the fall-to-spring calendar of the television business, these sales are being made on a calendar that runs from July 1 through June 30.

The welcome-screen pitches, which are being called Mosaic Zero ad

units, have already been sold to the Walt Disney Co., to advertise the coming movie "The Lone Ranger," and the Turner Broadcast-

video game system, other buyers of Mosaic Zero ad units include packaged-goods makers like ConAgra Foods, for Slim Jim jerky and

estimates that it will sell about \$10 million worth of ads in this PlayStation upfront market, which would represent about 90 percent of the available Mosaic Zero ad units and about 50 percent of the regular ad inventory. There is a \$300,000 minimum on ad buys to take part in the upfront. Because there is limited availability of the Mosaic Zero ad units, said Amy Carney, president for advertiser sales, strategy and research at Sony Pictures Television, a decision was made to sell them "in an upfront kind of way."

One reason the television upfront market operates the way it does is that there is limited availability of commercial time in the shows that viewers like to watch.

There are 60 million registered users for PlayStation 3, Carney said, and 80 percent are men ages 18 to 49. □



Sony Computer Entertainment president and CEO Andrew House gives gamers their first look at the PlayStation 4 and it's a rectangular black box, just like all the previous PlayStations.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

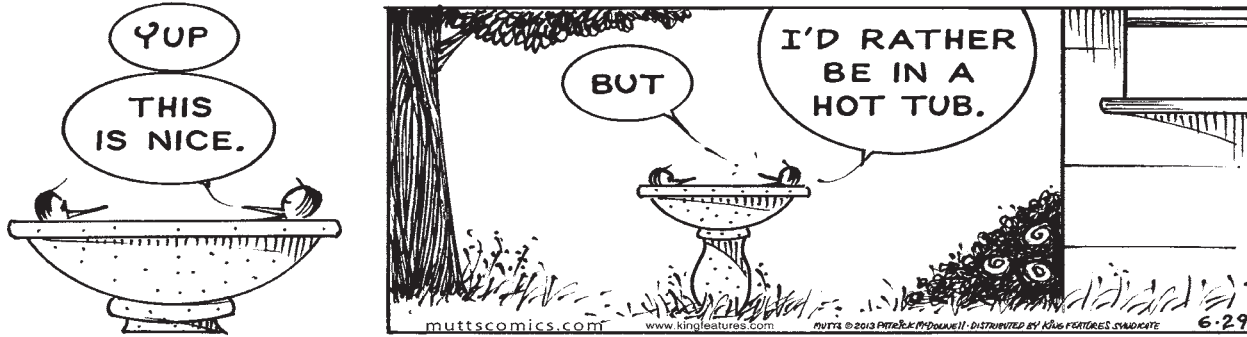
ing System division of Time Warner, to promote the TNT television series "Falling Skies."

In addition to entertainment marketers, who seem natural advertisers for a

meat sticks; the Dr Pepper Snapple Group, for Dr Pepper soft drinks; Mentholum Brands, for Rohto eye drops; and Reckitt Benckiser, for Clearasil.

Sony Pictures Television es-

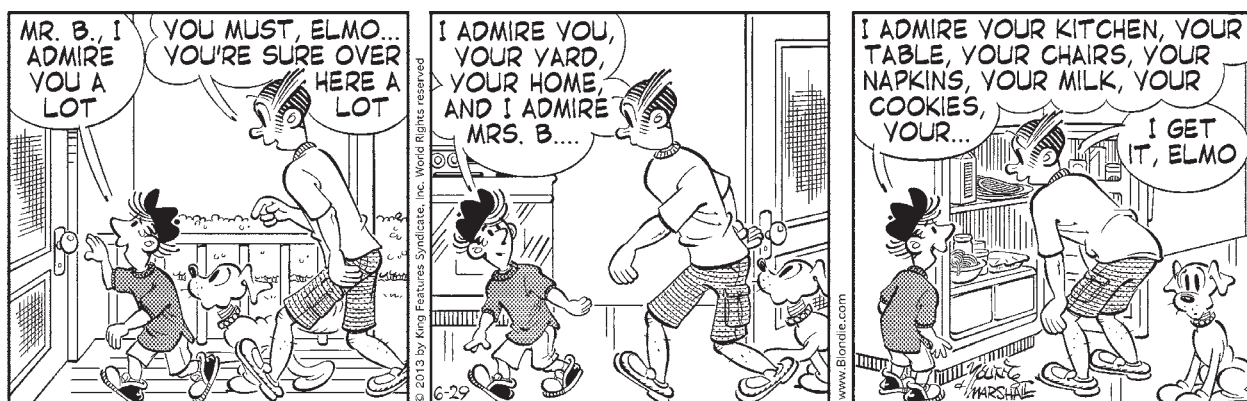
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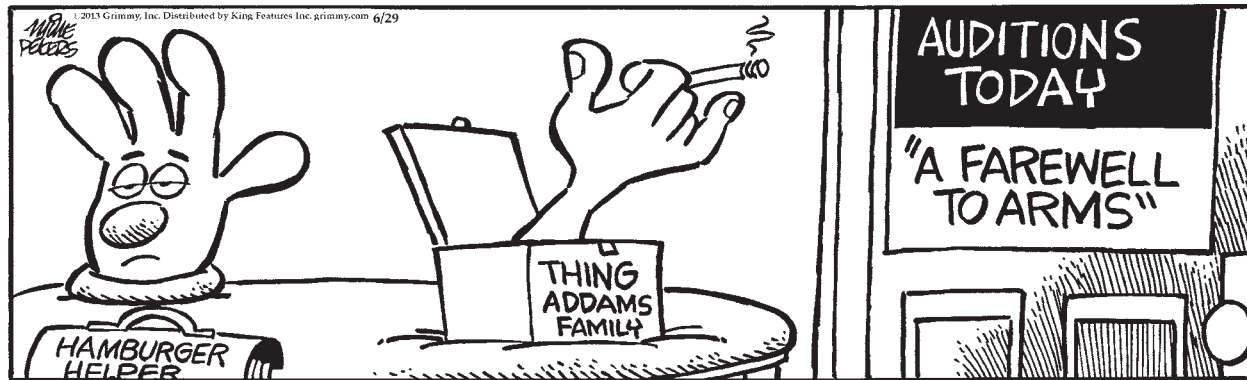
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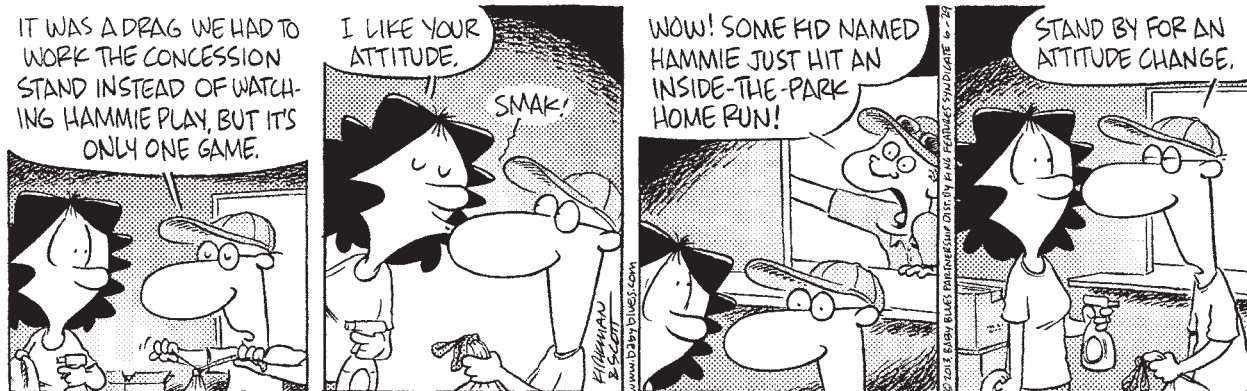
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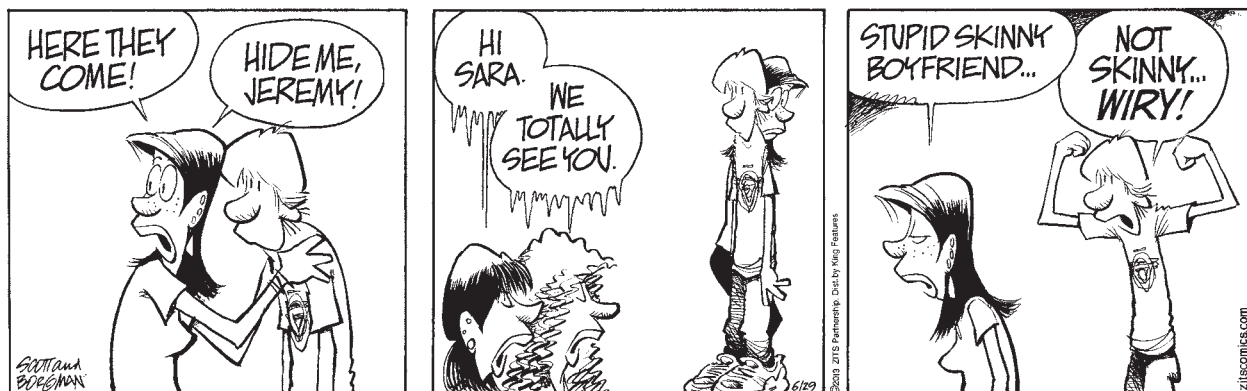
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	1	9		5			7	
6					3			4
8						5		
				2			3	
1								7
	4			7				
		7						3
4			5					2
	9			1		8	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

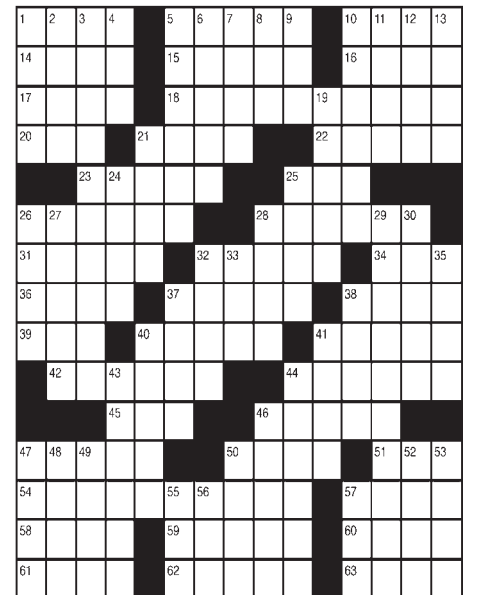
5	3	1	4	6	8	9	7	2
8	2	9	3	5	7	1	4	6
7	6	4	2	9	1	3	8	5
6	4	7	8	1	2	5	9	3
9	8	5	6	3	4	7	2	1
3	1	2	5	7	9	8	6	4
4	7	8	1	2	3	6	5	9
1	9	6	7	4	5	2	3	8
2	5	3	9	8	6	4	1	7

ACROSS

- 1 ___-Cola
- 5 Black suit
- 10 Baby buggy
- 14 Difficult
- 15 Eagle's nest
- 16 Gossip columnist ___ Barrett
- 17 Cincinnati, ___
- 18 Doll with hair made of yarn
- 20 ___ up with; tolerate
- 21 Autry or Wilder
- 22 Hose down
- 23 Tiny bits of land
- 25 Be victorious
- 26 Fungal growth
- 28 Tarry
- 31 Chili dog topper, often
- 32 Seal to keep water out
- 34 Encountered
- 36 Shaping tool
- 37 Spin rapidly
- 38 Actress Delany
- 39 Pass away
- 40 Picture border
- 41 Erie or Panama
- 42 Venerated
- 44 Round shape
- 45 Refuse to allow
- 46 Singer Page
- 47 Faint
- 50 Guinea pig's home
- 51 Play on words
- 54 Early antibiotic
- 57 Dad
- 58 Cereal grains
- 59 Sierra ___; African nation
- 60 Perched upon
- 61 Horse's gait
- 62 Cat, to a toddler
- 63 Camera's eye

DOWN

- 1 Use an ax
- 2 Hawaiian island
- 3 Found fault with
- 4 Hubbub
- 5 Lurch sideways
- 6 Is tilted
- 7 Encourage
- 8 Large
- 9 Look at
- 10 Asking nosy questions
- 11 Reddish horse
- 12 Jillian & Curry
- 13 Lion's neck hair
- 19 Beverage
- 21 Secluded valley
- 24 Pump or loafer
- 25 "Time ___ tell"
- 26 Washing machine tubful
- 27 New Delhi, ___
- 28 Entice; draw
- 29 Set free
- 30 Of the kidneys
- 32 Actor Everett
- 33 Goal
- 35 Story
- 37 Songbird
- 38 Move quickly
- 40 France's dollar before the euro
- 41 Give a traffic ticket to
- 43 Woodwind player



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/29/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

ONE	PACED	HOSE
BETS	ABOVE	ADAM
ITCH	NOTES	NORM
SHODDIEST	GRAY	
VIAL	IDA	
SPRIGS	VENERATE	
PAINS	LIVER	RAN
RUNG	BIPED	BOLT
ASS	FEVER	FEMUR
TEENAGER	QUEASY	
ERR	RUSH	
SIPS	UNCEASING	
ABOUT	DEREK	VEEP
RILL	GRAVE	EWER
ISLE	EDGER	SKY

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6/29/13

- 44 TV's "___ & Lacey"
- 46 Apply a coat of color to a wall
- 47 Blemish
- 48 ___ out; become dilapidated
- 49 Climb ___; mount
- 50 Blood ___; cause of a stroke, often
- 52 Come ___; find
- 53 Rests in the daytime
- 55 Type; variety
- 56 Luau garland
- 57 Chum

Motion Picture Academy To Expand Memberships

MICHAEL CIEPLY

© 2013 New York Times

LOS ANGELES - Reversing a policy that has more closely restricted membership in the past decade, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Friday invited an unusually large group of film professionals - 276 in total, including actors Milla Jovovich and Joseph Gordon-Levitt - to join its ranks. The invitation list represents a sharp increase from last year, when 176 new members were invited. That number was roughly calculated to maintain the size of the group, which annually awards the Oscars, and was generally consistent with the practice since 2004, when the Academy moved to tighten its rolls by focusing heavily on credentials, including any recent Oscar nomination, in deciding whether to extend an invitation. This year, however, the Academy - which has been concerned about a lack of diversity within its ranks and is searching for new connections to emerging aspects of cinema - dropped a system by which each of its branches was held to a

quota. It particularly encouraged the expansion of its documentary branch, which had been one of its smallest. That branch has only 173 members, but this year it invited 42 documentarians to join, compared with 11 last year. Among those invited were Marcel Ophuls, whose work includes "The Sorrow and the Pity," and both Ricki Stern and Annie Sundberg, who directed "Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work." Other actors on a list of 22 invitees - fewer than the 25 invited last year - include Michael Peña, Lucy Liu, Jennifer Lopez, Charles Grodin and Jason Bateman. Among the 15 directors invited to join, an increase from last year's 11, were Paul Feig, Benh Zeitlin and Steve McQueen. Kevin Tsujihara, recently named chief executive of Warner Bros., was perhaps the best-known of the 17 executives invited to join. In a twist, Neil Meron, who was a producer of this year's Oscar telecast and whose film credits include "Hairspray" and "The Bucket List," was invited to join as a member at large rather than as a producer. □

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Voyager 1 spacecraft enters uncharted territory

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The first spacecraft that would leave our solar system, Voyager 1, has reached uncharted territory while nearing that goal.

New research pinpoints the current location of the U.S. spacecraft, which has been exploring the area where the effects of interstellar space, or the space between stars, can be felt. Scientists don't know how large this newfound region of the solar system is, or how much farther Voyager 1 has to travel to break to the other side.

"It could actually be anytime, or it could be several more years," said chief scientist Ed Stone of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages the mission.

Stone first described this unexpected zone at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union last year. A trio of papers published online Thursday in the journal *Science* confirm just how strange this new layer is.

Soon after Voyager 1

crossed into the region last August, low-energy charged particles that had been plentiful suddenly zipped outside, while high-energy cosmic rays from interstellar space streamed inward. Readings by one of Voyager 1's instruments showed an abrupt increase in the magnetic field strength, but there was no change in the direction of the magnetic field lines — a sign that Voyager 1 has not yet exited the solar system.

Voyager 1 and its twin, Voyager 2, were launched in 1977 to visit the giant gas planets, beaming back dazzling postcards of Jupiter, Saturn and their moons. Voyager 2 went on to tour Uranus and Neptune. After planet-hopping, they were sent on a trajectory toward interstellar space.

Voyager 1 is about 11 ½ billion miles from the sun. Voyager 2 is about 9½ billion miles from the sun. The nuclear-powered spacecraft have enough fuel to operate their instruments until around 2020.

In the meantime, scientists

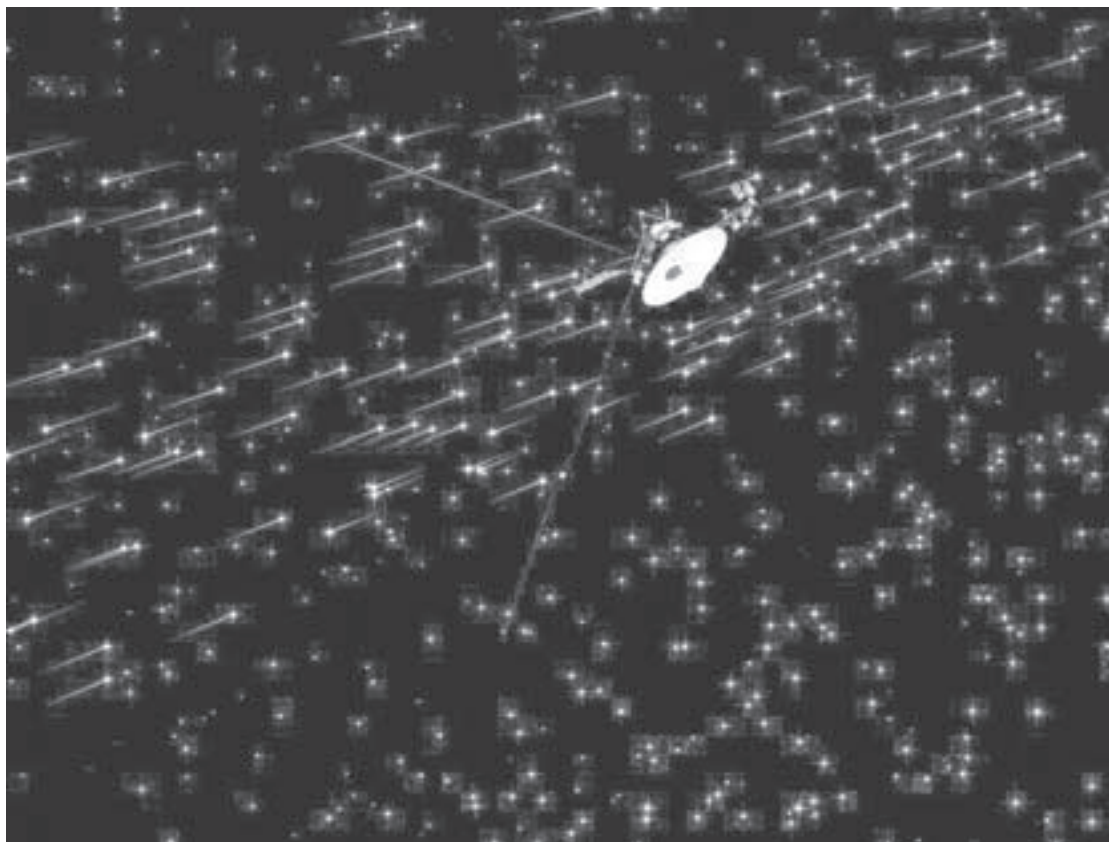
are looking for any clues of a departure from the solar system.

Given the time it takes to process the data, mission scientist Leonard Burlaga

said there will be a lag between when Voyager 1 finally sails into interstellar space and when the team can confirm the act. Then there's always the possibility

of surprises beyond the solar system.

"Crossing may not be an instantaneous thing," Burlaga said. "It may be complicated." □



In this artist rendering released by NASA, the Voyager 1 spacecraft explores a new region of space at the edge of the solar system. New research published Thursday, June 27, 2013 in the journal *Science* confirms the NASA spacecraft has not yet crossed into interstellar space, or the space between stars.

(AP Photo/NASA)

NASA launches sun-watching satellite from US

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, California (AP) — NASA launched a satellite late Thursday on a mission to explore a little-studied region of the sun and to better forecast space weather that can disrupt communications systems on Earth.

Unlike a traditional liftoff, the Iris satellite rode into Earth orbit on a Pegasus rocket dropped from an airplane that took off around sunset from the Vandenberg Air Force Base on California's central coast.

About 100 miles (160 kilometers) off the coast and at an altitude of 39,000 feet, the airplane released the rocket, which ignited its engine for the 13-minute climb to space.

Mission controllers clapped after receiving word that Iris separated from the rocket as planned and unfurled its solar panels, ready to begin its two-year mission.

"We're thrilled," NASA

launch director Tim Dunn said in a NASA TV interview. The launch went smoothly, but there were some tense moments when communications signals were temporarily lost.

Ground controllers were

able to track Iris by relying on other satellites orbiting Earth.

Previous sun-observing spacecraft have yielded a wealth of information about our nearest star and beamed back brilliant pic-

tures of solar flares.

The 7-foot (2.1-meter)-long Iris, weighing 400 pounds (180 kilograms), carries an ultraviolet telescope that can take high-resolution images every few seconds. Unlike NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, which observes the entire sun, Iris will focus on a little-explored region that lies between the surface and the corona, the glowing white ring that's visible during eclipses.

The goal is to learn more about how this mysterious region drives solar wind — a stream of charged particles spewing from the sun — and to better predict space weather that can disrupt communications signals on Earth.

"This is a very difficult region to understand and observe. We haven't had the technical capabilities before now to really zoom in" and peer at it up close,

NASA program scientist Jeffrey Newmark said before the launch.

The mission is cheap by NASA standards, costing \$182 million, and is managed by the space agency's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Engineers will spend a month making sure Iris is in perfect health before powering on the telescope to begin observations.

The launch was delayed by a day so that technicians at the Air Force base could restore power to launch range equipment after a weekend outage cut electricity to a swath of the central coast.

The Pegasus, from Orbital Sciences Corp. of Dulles, Virginia, is a winged rocket designed for launching small satellites. First flown in 1990, Pegasus rockets have also been used to accelerate vehicles in hypersonic flight programs. □



In this image provided by NASA the Iris satellite heads into Earth orbit on a Pegasus rocket, which was dropped from an airplane flying over the Pacific some 100 miles off California's central coast Thursday June 27, 2013. Unlike NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, which observes the entire sun, Iris will focus on a little-explored region that lies between the surface and the corona, the glowing white ring that's visible during eclipses.

(AP Photo/NASA)

Hikers rescued on trek to bus of 'Into the Wild'

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)

— A second set of hikers this summer have had to be rescued after trying to reach a famed abandoned Fairbanks city bus in the Alaska wilderness, after the book and movie "Into the Wild" made the remote bus famous.

A group of three hikers had to be lifted out of the wilderness on Tuesday, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported.

A helicopter delivered the three to their vehicle, and they drove to a medical clinic in Denali Park so Nichole Pickering, 25, could have an injury to her leg checked, Alaska State Troopers said. In May, three German hikers trying to reach the bus on the Stampede Trail, near Healy, or about 10 miles (16 kilometers) north of the entrance to Denali National Park and Preserve, also had to be rescued. They told troopers the river they crossed getting to the bus had become impassable for the return due to high, swift-running water. The hikers had proper gear but only enough food for three days, troopers said. Troopers flew the three hikers to their vehicle at the end of Stampede Road. The green and white bus, used for years as a shelter for hunters, has become a destination for those seeking to retrace the steps of Chris McCandless. "The Bus," as it has become known, has been the source of multiple rescues since it was made famous, first by Jon Krakauer's book published in 1996 and then by Sean Penn's 2007 film, both of which chronicled the life and death of McCandless, a 24-year-old who hiked into the Alaska wilderness in April 1992 with little food and equipment and spent the summer living in the bus. McCandless was found dead in the bus almost four months later after starving to death. Since the book and movie came out, troopers have rescued numerous hikers who hiked out to the bus but could not return due to high water in the Teklanika River. □

Publisher cancels Deen's multibook contract

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

Paula Deen's publisher has canceled a deal with her for multiple books, including an upcoming cookbook that was the No. 1 seller on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com, following her admission she used a racial slur.

Ballantine Books announced Friday it would not release "Paula Deen's New Testament: 250 Favorite Recipes, All Lightened Up," which was scheduled for October and was the first of a five-book deal announced early last year. Interest in it had surged as Deen, a successful businesswoman who grew up in the U.S. South and who specializes in Southern comfort food, came under increasing attack for acknowledging she had used the N-word.

Ballantine, an imprint of Random House Inc., said it had decided to cancel the book's publication after "careful consideration." It had no comment beyond what was in its brief statement, spokesman Stuart Applebaum said.

Later Friday, Deen's literary agent, Janis Donnaud, said that the entire deal had been called off.

"I am confident that these

books will be published and that we will have a new publisher," said Donnaud, who declined to comment on whether she had heard from other publishers.

The trouble for Deen started when comments she made in a court deposition became public. During the deposition in a discrimination lawsuit filed by an ex-employee, Deen admitted using the N-word in the past but denied using it to describe waiters.

Deen said she's not a racist during a tearful "Today" show interview but has lost many of her business relationships. Sears Holdings Corp. and J.C. Penney Co. said Friday that they were cutting ties with Deen following similar announcements from Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Target Corp. and Home Depot.

Last week, the Food Network said that it would not renew her contract. She also was dropped by Smithfield Foods, Caesars Entertainment stripped her name from restaurants and drug company Novo Nordisk said it was suspending its work with her.

Publishers have pulled a wide range of books over the years, usually because of plagiarism, fabrications or other issues with the

books themselves. Ballantine's decision highlights a problem for Deen even when the product itself has not been challenged and

er stores likely would have been reluctant to promote her new book or to invite her for personal appearances.



Paula Deen speaks in Pasadena, Calif. Sears Holdings Corp. announced Friday, June 28, 2013, that it is cutting ties with Southern celebrity chef Deen, adding to the list of companies severing their relationship following revelations that Deen used racial slurs in the past.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

is in high demand. Some outlets that might have sold her books, such as Target and Wal-Mart, have cut ties with her. Other

Because "Paula Deen's New Testament" was months away from release, no copies had been printed. □

Louis Vuitton celebrates West Coast Americana

THOMAS ADAMSON

AP Fashion Writer

PARIS (AP) — The Louis Vuitton man moved from the eastern Himalayas of last season to the sunny West Coast of the United States for this spring-summer 2014. "This was the American road trip, just enjoying and celebrating Americana from NASA through to the traditional things such as bandanas," said designer Kim Jones, breaking a sweat backstage at the Paris show that was held inside a scorching conservatory.

The collection ranged from the road trip, as imagined in khaki parkas with travel badges and cotton printed bandanas, to a whole



A model wears a creation by British fashion designer Kim Jones for Louis Vuitton's Spring-Summer 2014 men's collection presented in Paris.

(AP Photo/Jacques Brinon)

mix of different American styles: From sportswear,

as in white, blue and red silk graph check tailored

shorts, to Gatsby-style evening suits in raw kimono silk with a classy curved lower part.

As ever, when traveling anywhere Vuitton-style, don't expect to rough it.

Stylish and coiffed David Beckham looked approvingly on from the front row. Silhouettes were tight and masculine.

The 41 classy looks were fairly eclectic and so served up a little something for everyone.

The collection, however, produced no great creative surprises, apart from the piece de resistance: A fantastic retro black silk jacket with mother-of-pearl jacquard featuring the famed LV monogram. □

Jason Statham showcases acting range in new film

JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — With the success of his own franchise films like "The Transporter" and "Crank," as well as being a part of "The Expendables" and newly added to the "Fast and Furious" series, Jason Statham is a bonafide action star. But with his latest film, "Redemption," the actor shows his acting range by playing a homeless soldier on the streets of London. Statham says he was drawn to the role because of its writer, Steven Knight, who penned the London underbelly dramas, "Eastern Promises," and "Dirty Pretty Things." The 45-year-old is hoping to add another dimension to his movie career, which began in 1998 when director Guy Ritchie discovered him selling perfume and jewelry on the streets of London.

AP: What did you learn about homeless soldiers while doing this film?

Statham: We sat with ex-soldiers and they told us how difficult it was to

come back. They told us stories about their friends, how they lost an eye, how they lost limbs. How do you expect to get a job with a disability? You've been shown how to shoot a gun or operate a weapon, but all of these things are of no use anymore. ... We found a lot of soldiers end up on the street because they find it easier to exist there. They can function because it's almost like a frontier between what's legal and illegal and find a way to do something that they were good at.

AP: Steven wrote "Eastern Promises." Did you agree to do this film providing there wasn't a naked fight scene in a sauna?

Statham: (Laughs) That was a great fight. ... I admire it, but I don't want to be in it.

AP: You were once a diver for the British national team. How did that translate to action star?

Statham: It was a hobby and I went in a couple competitions. Within a year I'm on the British team



Actor Jason Statham poses as he arrives for the UK premiere of *Expendables 2* in London. In his latest film, "Redemption," the actor turns it up a notch, playing a homeless soldier on the streets of London. (AP Photo/Sang Tan)

and I'm running around the world (in) competition. It's a 10-meter platform, you're throwing yourself around. You're doing spins and twists and you know you get to visit countries you never get to visit and you compete with all the nationalities around the world. It's a giggle. It's not something I ever thought I would do anything with. I just wasted 10 years on it that's all. I think people think that's my calling card which it never was.

AP: When (Sylvester) Stallone called you for "The Expendables," was it like getting accepted into the all-star game of action stars? Statham: Of course. I'm from the U.K. (laughs.) There's no big action stars out there and for me to get the invite was a great thing. It's a big privilege to be part of the cinema icons. ... There's no one on the planet that doesn't recognize the man (Stallone) so to be asked to come to the party is a big privilege and you can never overlook that great sort of invite. □

Carla Bruni, back in jeans and in pop-star mode

JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Gone are the prim (but stylish) Dior suits and sheath dresses worn by the first lady of France. Carla Bruni is back in pop-star mode, in a uniform of skinny jeans and cute little boots, toting a guitar.

The singer, who's been promoting her new album, "Little French Songs," in New York this week and excitedly announcing her first U.S. tour, says she's happy about her return to her former life — though she insists, "I never really left it, you know?"

But Bruni, who left the Elysee Palace in Paris with the electoral defeat of her husband, President Nicolas Sarkozy, in 2012, is still political enough not to rule anything out. Namely, another Sarkozy presidential run — an eventuality being discussed in France by opponents of current President

Francois Hollande.

"Well," she says carefully about that possibility. "It's not current. You know? I don't think we can really talk about it today ... We go on with our life."

"Politics are a special world with special rules," she adds. "And so ... they talk about it, but it's just to fill up the press a little bit, you know?"

In an interview in a New York hotel room, Bruni prefers to talk about her album — it came out here in April, but an earlier promotional trip was canceled due to illness — and her just-announced U.S. tour early next year.

"It's fantastic! I never did a tour in the United States, I never even toured in Europe," she says. "I hope people will come. For a French artist or Italian artist it's really rare and it's lucky."

Bruni is aware that few people can look at her

solely as a musician, but rather as a woman with a fascinating trajectory: an Italian-born supermodel turned songstress, famous for dalliances with Mick

She says all that doesn't bother her.

"What bothers me would be indifference," she says. "There's plenty of talented people, geniuses ev-

very public figure. Promoting her album this week, she appeared at a private party at the tony Royalton Hotel, singing three of her songs, including "Chez Keith et Anita," a song about hanging out in the '70s with Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards and his girlfriend, Anita Pallenberg. In Paris, glamour shots of the former first lady are appearing on billboards. In December, remarks she made to French Vogue appearing to dismiss feminism sparked a Twitter uproar.

But Bruni says she craves a quiet, private existence.

"I'm not a very outside person," she says. "Even at 15, I was never a party girl. My favorite things to do are to play music, read, watch films, write, and cook — and those are all things you do at home. I don't know, maybe it's my astrological sign?" She laughs. "I'm a Capricorn. □"



French-Italian singer Carla Bruni performs during the Echo music awards ceremony in Berlin. (AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

Jagger and Eric Clapton, who later engaged in a whirlwind courtship and marriage to the French president that transfixed the country.

everywhere that have no chance to talk about their work, to show their work. So I don't really suffer from getting attention."

Of course, Bruni is still a

Speed Of Ascent



DAVID BROOKS
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The Supreme Court didn't exactly shock the world Monday. But, by imposing stricter standards on how courts review affirmative action plans, the court did send another small signal that the era of explicitly race-based affirmative action is coming to an end. During their heyday, affirmative action programs produced some lasting good. It would have been immoral in the civil rights era to have an archipelago of white colleges and universities dotting the land. Affirmative action plans prevented that. As William Bowen and Derek Bok wrote in their classic work, "The Shape of the River," in 1960, only 5.4 percent of blacks between 25 and 29 had graduated from college, while, by 1995, that share had risen to 15.4 percent. The share of black medical school students climbed to 8.1 percent from 2.2 percent.

But affirmative action programs also perpetrated some noteworthy wrongs. They reinforced crude racial categorizations, which repelled many Americans. They discriminated against Asian-Americans. Thomas Espenshade of Princeton reviewed admissions data from 1997 and found that Asian applicants had to outscore African-Americans by 450 points on their SATs to have an equal chance of getting into a college. The programs also produced a mismatch between minority students and the schools they attended, which sometimes ended up hurting the students they were designed to help.

The evidence on this is hotly disputed, but Richard Sander and Stuart Taylor Jr. make a compelling case in their book "Mismatch." Because some minority applicants get drafted into schools where they wouldn't otherwise be accepted, they are more likely to be stuck in the bottom of their classes and more likely to flee from difficult science and engineering majors. Black law school students are four times more likely to fail bar exams, with mismatch, according to Sander and Taylor, explaining half this gap.

So affirmative action gave us some wildly good and unfortunately negative outcomes, and it stirred up fierce debates. But that's not why these racial preferences are going away. They are going away because underlying realities have changed.

First, economic inequality now trumps racial inequality as the chief source of disadvantage. Sean Reardon of Stanford has

looked at a range of studies over 50 years and found whereas the black/white test score gap used to be nearly twice as large as the rich/poor gap, now the income gap is nearly twice as large as the race gap. Given this, explicitly race-based affirmative action just doesn't respond to the needs of the moment.

Second, the ethnic makeup of the country has become more complex. At the dawn of the affirmative action era, it was easy to see the chief racial divide as between whites and blacks, but the ethnic mosaic is much more complicated now, with an explosion of different groups from all over the world, at various levels of disadvantage.

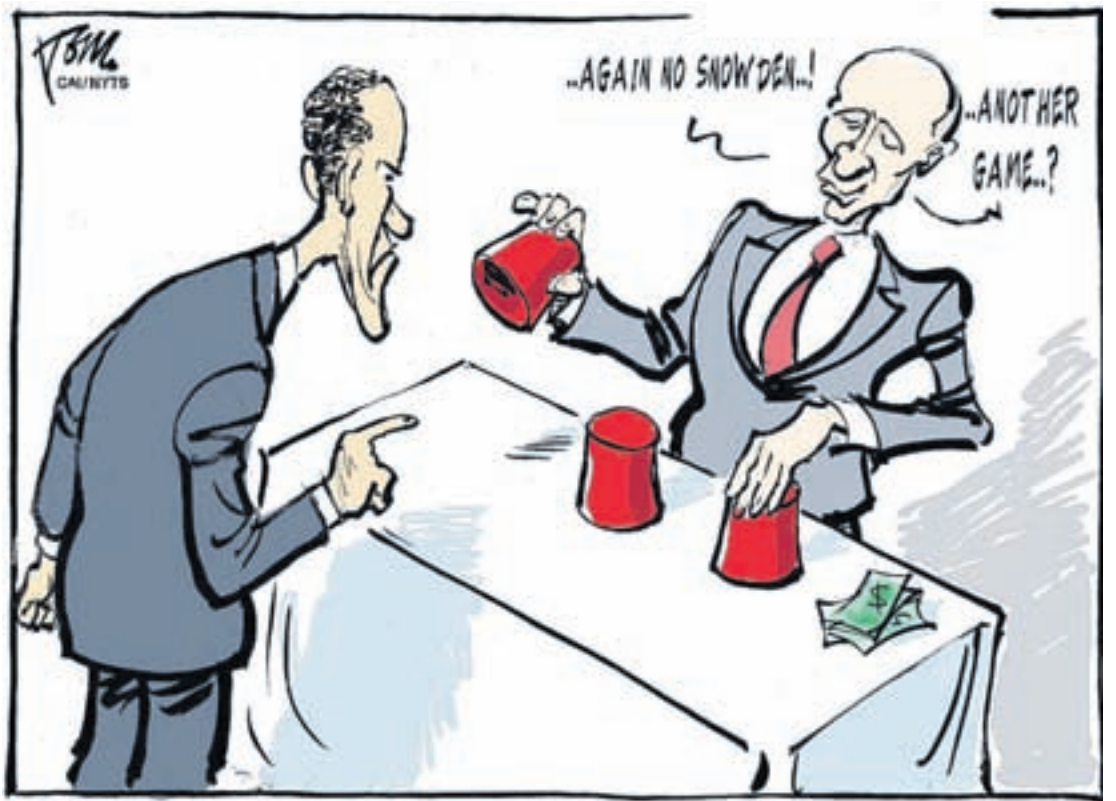
Third, we're living in an age of data. Once, it may have seemed reasonable to measure a person by a few crude metrics: SAT, GPA, race. But now colleges and universities, especially with financial aid forms, have access to a wide array of data on all applicants and can potentially get a much more personalized look at the disadvantages each individual has overcome.

The result is that race-based affirmative action, while not being rejected, is being subsumed within class-based affirmative action. It's being subsumed within more detailed measures of exactly which challenges each applicant faced.

In his Century Foundation report, "A Better Affirmative Action," Richard Kahlenberg shows how state university systems in places like Texas and Colorado and at places like the UCLA Law School are devising class-based preference systems, which ameliorate economic disadvantage while still producing racially diverse campuses.

What often happens is this: Voters or courts in a state will strike down race-based affirmative action. Minority enrollments initially plummet. Then administrations devise class-based systems that look at the specific obstacles applicants have overcome: growing up in a neighborhood with concentrated poverty, with a single parent or in a home with few financial assets. Minority enrollments recover, at least to a significant degree, and the new system is fairer than the old.

What are we looking for when we admit a student into a university? We're looking for speed of ascent, not academic attainment at one moment in time. A student who's risen from an economic catastrophe to achieve a B-plus average has more speed of ascent than the child of law professors who has an A average. The first student may be more expensive to teach. She may not write as many big alumni checks. But she'll reflect more credit on her school and society. We now have the means to measure speed of ascent in a fairer and better way. Explicit, race-based affirmative action programs weren't wrong for their time, but they are being replaced. □



Senator Wendy And The Boys



GAIL COLLINS
© 2013 New York Times

There is an old saying that Texas is "heaven for men and dogs, but hell for women and oxen." But the state's history is chock-full of stories of female role models. Barbara Jordan. Ann Richards. In downtown Austin, there's a statue of Angelina Eberly, heroine of the Texas Archives War of 1842, firing a cannon and looking about 7 feet tall.

I do not have nearly enough time to explain to you about the Archives War, although it's an extremely interesting story. Right now we need to move on to state Sen. Wendy Davis, whose 11-hour filibuster this week turned her into a national name brand. "It was like a made-for-TV movie. I've been around the block, but I've never seen anything like this," said Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood and the daughter of the former governor.

Texas is a state with one of the nation's highest teenage motherhood rates, where a majority of women who give birth are poor enough to qualify for Medicaid. So, naturally, its political leaders have declared war against the right of women to choose whether or not they want to be pregnant. Funding for family planning has been slashed. This month, Gov. Rick Perry tried to pass a new law that would have shut down almost all the abortion clinics in the state, under the guise of expanded health and

safety requirements.

Huge crowds showed up to protest! This was pretty remarkable because Texas is not currently known as a place where people pay intense attention to what goes on in its state Capitol. (A recent study at the University of Texas at Austin found that it has "one of the nation's lowest political and civic participation rates.")

Also, the conventional wisdom is that when things get politically rowdy, it's because of a visitation from the right.

Yet there the protesters were, filling the Senate gallery and overflow rooms, squishing into the halls and the rotunda, flowing down the Capitol front steps and into the mall.

The bill arrived at the state Senate, its final stop, on the last day of the legislative session. Late in the morning, Davis got up to filibuster until midnight when the clock ran out.

Like Ann Richards, Davis is good on her feet, with a spectacular head of hair and a gift for funny speeches. But, on Tuesday, she was angry and ready for a fight. In the Texas Capitol, she said later in a phone interview, "there's a complete disregard for women's rights by those without uteruses." The Texas filibuster rules are suitable for a place that regards steer wrestling and bronco busting as the official state sport. We made a big fuss when Rand Paul stayed on his feet for 13 hours in the U.S. Senate to filibuster over drones. But that was a walk in the park compared with what Davis went through. Paul got help from his friends, who orated while he rested his voice.

And U.S. senators can speak about anything when they filibuster. (Paul read from "Alice in Wonderland.") Davis was supposed to stick to her subject.

The crowd was reasonably quiet until Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst ruled that Davis had to sit down because she had gone off topic

by referencing a state law requiring that women who want abortions must show up a day earlier for an ultrasound.

"That wouldn't have happened to any other senator," said Davis, who believes she was treated dismissively because she is a woman - or at least a woman filibustering on women's issues.

The people in the gallery began to yell. Dewhurst, who complained about "an unruly mob using Occupy Wall Street tactics," could not get control of the room before time ran out. Texas is now engaged in a debate over whether it is worse to yell in the state Senate or declare a senator out of order for discussing the state abortion laws during a debate on abortion.

Meanwhile, pictures of the pink sneakers worn by Wendy Davis during her filibuster have resurfaced as posters.

The anti-abortion bill will be back. Vowing not to give way to "the breakdown of decorum and decency," Perry called a special emergency session for July 1 to take it up again.

The protesters will undoubtedly be back, too.

"They've tasted victory - what it means to organize and win," predicted Cecile Richards.

And Texans are wondering if this could be a new era for a state that really hasn't been in the national eye for ages - unless you count the Rick Perry "oops" moment.

"Politics has been so dormant in Texas," said Evan Smith, the editor of The Texas Tribune, whose livecast of Davis' filibuster was viewed by 182,000 people. "The point is, the world is watching now."

A few years back, Davis told me about an incident during a debate when she had asked a veteran Republican a question about a pending bill. Dodging her query, he said: "I have trouble hearing women's voices."

I guess they can hear her now. □

Ferried Between Islands Toward Love And Its Promise

MATT FLEGENHEIMER

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - The riders eye the outdoor perches first, pressing, grinding, deploying well-placed elbows, angling closer, closer to the edge that overlooks the water.

Soon there are juice boxes resting on the rail and children on their tiptoes just beneath them. Sisters clink \$3.75 Bud Lights in a pre-sunset toast. Some wear foam crowns of Lady Liberty, and a German tour group, decked in lederhosen, asks about the statue.

55, eating Twizzlers aboard the 7 p.m. ferry to Manhattan, stopping for a moment, to peck Lillian Torres, 59, on their way to an evening of dinner and a water-side stroll.

"You get out of the blah," he said, explaining the itch to leave Staten Island, to "go see some bling."

At the back of the vessel, couples laughed and whispered, serving as their own tour guides. Look at the new World Trade Center tower, with a red light flickering from the spire. Do you see Brooklyn, receding

It is the vessel that once attracted a younger Michael R. Bloomberg, spoiling for a place to bring his dates. "You'd get a six-pack of beer, a pizza, and you'd sit outside," he recalled in September. "It was really romantic."

The fare was a nickel then. Now the ride is free.

And the drinks are cheap. On the deck near dusk, Amanda Gough, 26, traveled alone, holding the book "A Game of Thrones" in her right hand and a 25.4-ounce Foster's beer in her left, to be completed,

scope of cheetah print, high heels, higher heels and assorted renderings of the Italian flag. There is a line of seats in front of a mirror in the women's bathroom, primed for primping; the men's room has no such trappings, although there are locks on the rolls of toilet paper, lest a free ride become a profitable one for the sticky-fingered. This was the hour of the bachelor pep talk, for those who would soon attempt perhaps New York City's unlikely night club maneuver: selling a poten-

the 1:30 a.m. ferry, a bachelorette party had grown from three to five since 9 p.m., its inspiration dressed in a silver sash. And yet the group sat quietly, disinclined to reminisce. The evening was fine, the bride said. Just fine.

Nearby, the men of Staten Island, mateless still, arrived at their last gasps, like fatigued pitchers whose sharpest curveballs have already been thrown.

"How's your boyfriend?" one asked, the stench of alcohol sailing through the cabin. A woman whose



A view of the Manhattan borough of New York from the the Staten Island Ferry as it travels from the Manhattan borough of New York to the Staten Island borough of New York, June 15, 2013. The ferry on Saturday nights is popular for club-goers, couples and celebrators of all kinds. (Benjamin Norman/The New York Times)

It rises soon enough, dutifully obscuring the view of New Jersey.

But the Staten Island Ferry on a Saturday night is a love story first, retold every 5.2 miles with many of the same characters - a 25-minute cruise, as Gay Talese once wrote, for those with "no particular desire to reach the other side."

Here are the high school sophomores on a chaperoned date, stealing a kiss - the gentle clack of orthodontic braces - as the adults look away.

There is Angelo Gonzalez,

in the wake?

Jim and Talleah McMahon spent part of their fifth wedding anniversary on board, a bit of improvisation from a husband who "sort of pretended that I had a plan for today."

They had posted a message on Facebook before the trip, asking friends what they might find interesting on their first visit to Staten Island. "Nothing yet," McMahon said, checking his phone.

For the unattached, the ferry often presents the first opportunity to find an evening companion.

per ritual, before reaching Manhattan for a night out with friends. "That's the challenge," she said. She is undefeated.

A few hours later, on the 10 p.m. ferry, riders completed a streak of 19 consecutive beer orders in the ferry's food and beverage area. A woman seeking popcorn broke the run, which was equaled on the 11 p.m. ferry, before a water order felled momentum. By this time of night, club-goers predominated, particularly on trips from Staten Island to Manhattan, the rows a kaleido-

tial mate on a trip to Staten Island with a stranger.

"Bro, bro, only 9s and 10s tonight," one rider advised a friend as they boarded.

Several travelers - who wished to remain anonymous for reasons that included being a police officer, compromising the Google search results for their names and "trying to be a teacher" - said their ambitions for the evening were simple: "get messed up," or a coarser variation, and get lucky.

But during their rides home hours later, some revelers were more subdued. On

shirt was knotted at her midriff, cursed and walked off. No matter, the man said, insulting her measurements. Yet romance was never far off. Gabriel Jouard, 24, and Stephanie Santiago, 23, had been sitting outside just earlier, staring at the fading skyline. On Santiago's lap sat a pitbull-chihuahua mix named Olive, who wears a collar of white rope because "we're broke," Santiago said.

"We've never had a date," she said. "We just spend every day with each other." □